Gov't troops kill 17 Abus in Jolo pitch battles

Story on Page A2

Acting Ombudsman seeks bishops' boost

MAGLALAGAY AKO NG HOTLINE TO HEAVEN!

By A. Nocum

ACTING Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio apparently wants to make his appointment permanent and what better way to do it than to get the

ACTING/A18

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IN*Saturday Lifestyle*

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- Those Nora Aunor eyes
- Film celebrities recall 9/11

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Saturday, September 14, 2002 ★ 80 pages / 8 sections / vol. 17 / no. 278 P15

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Gloria seeks news blackout on kidnap

2 Ledesma kids abducted in hail of gunfire

By Alcuin Papa and Juliet Javellana *in Manila* and Carla P. Gomez, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

SOUNDING upset over yesterday's kidnapping of the two children of Negros Occidental Rep. Jules Ledesma IV, the President last night appealed to media to keep silence on the "live case." She told the INQUIRER that a "tried and tested formula" was in place to meet the crisis.

From early yesterday morning, the news of the kidnapping had filled radio news programs, text messaging systems and TV newscasts, making it the most publicized kidnapping case in recent memory. The 42-year-old Ledesma has also been a high-profile figure in recent weeks, after his engagement to popular actress Assunta de Rossi was made public. Ledesma's wife, Maria Victoria Pek, succumbed to cancer two years ago.

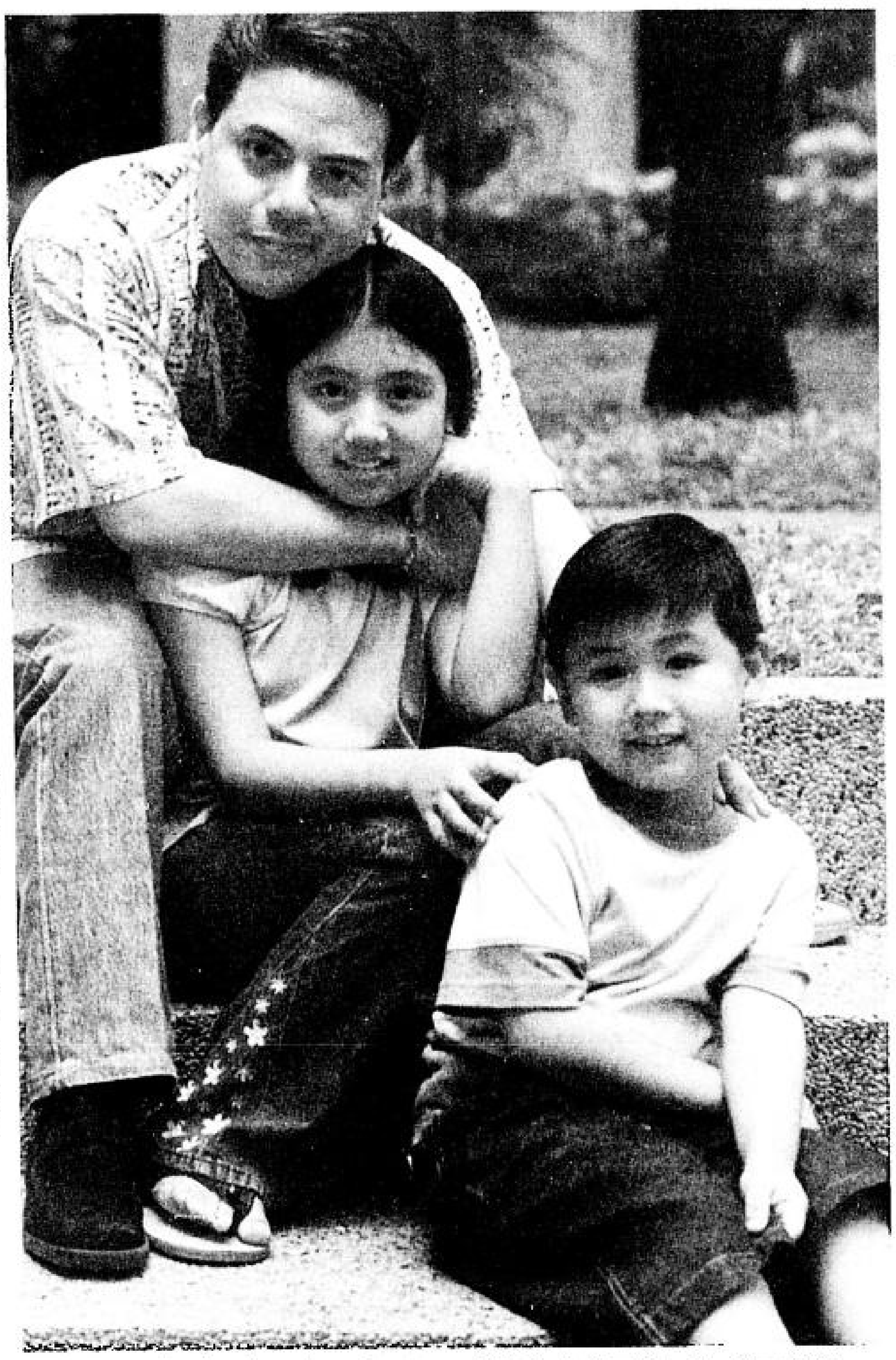
Ledesma could not be reached yesterday, even by Speaker Jose de Venecia, but he did respond to an INQUIRER request with a short text message: "Please, not now." His family in Negros Occidental kept a news blackout.

Speaking by phone, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she was "meeting with a major (TV) network" later in the evening to air her request to observe media silence.

She noted that the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, the industry association, had signed a memorandum of agreement "with anti-crime NGOs (nongovernment organizations), the Teresita Ang Sees of the world," not to report live cases.

But the kidnapping of Cristina Julieta Victoria, 10, and Julio Carlos Thomas, 5—seen by numerous witnesses—has dealt a serious blow to the government's campaign against kidnap-for-ransom gangs. Only last month, Ms Macapagal declared the tide of battle had

GLORIA/A17



SAY a prayer for the safe and speedy return of Cristina Julieta Victoria, 10, and Julio Carlos Tomas, 5, here shown with their father, Rep. Jules Ledesma. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

US a threat to world peace, says Mandela

NEW YORK—South African statesman Nelson Mandela urged the United States Thursday to act only through the United Nations in its campaign against Iraq after a report in which he branded the United States a threat to world peace.

"Everybody who wants peace and stability in the world will respect the world body," the legendary former president told reporters in Cape Town. "All its members (should) respect the United Nations charter. They don't do anything which might disturb peace and stability."

US President George W. Bush issued a ringing challenge to the world body over Iraq Thursday, saying if it did not force President Saddam Hussein to disarm and stop backing terrorism then "action will be unavoidable." Mandela's successor as president, Thabo Mbeki, said in New York on Thursday that the United Nations was the correct body to deal with Iraq.

"I was pleased that President Bush, when he spoke said that the US government would come to the Security Council on this matter and approach it in the context of decisions that have been taken by the Security Council," Mbeki said at an event organized by the Council on Foreign Relations.

But US State Secretary Colin Powell was quick to clarify that Bush's speech was "not a declaration of war.

"It was not a declaration of war." It was a statement to the United Nations that it is time to act. It is time to do something,"

US/A18

Crisis body wants Pinoys out of Iraq in 7 days

By Norman Bordadora and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE CRISIS Committee overseeing the welfare of Filipinos in Iraq wants them out of that country within seven days.

Committee chair Roy Cimatu announced this yesterday to ensure an orderly evacuation out of Baghdad and into Amman in Jordan, and to instill in the Filipinos "a sense of urgency," a highly placed source, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER.

But Agence France Presse reported that more than 100 Filipinos had ignored President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for them to leave Iraq immediately amid threats of US military action.

It quoted Assistant Secretary Victoriano Lecaros, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs, as saying that the President's warning, issued on Wednesday, was not an order.

CRISIS/A18

More poachers fall; China's No. 2 here

By Dominique Monera-Tabora, Geraldford Ticke, Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet L. Javellana

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Just as the Department of Foreign Affairs is preparing to release Chinese fishermen caught near the Scarborough Shoal, 38 others were apprehended in Malampaya, Palawan, on Thursday.

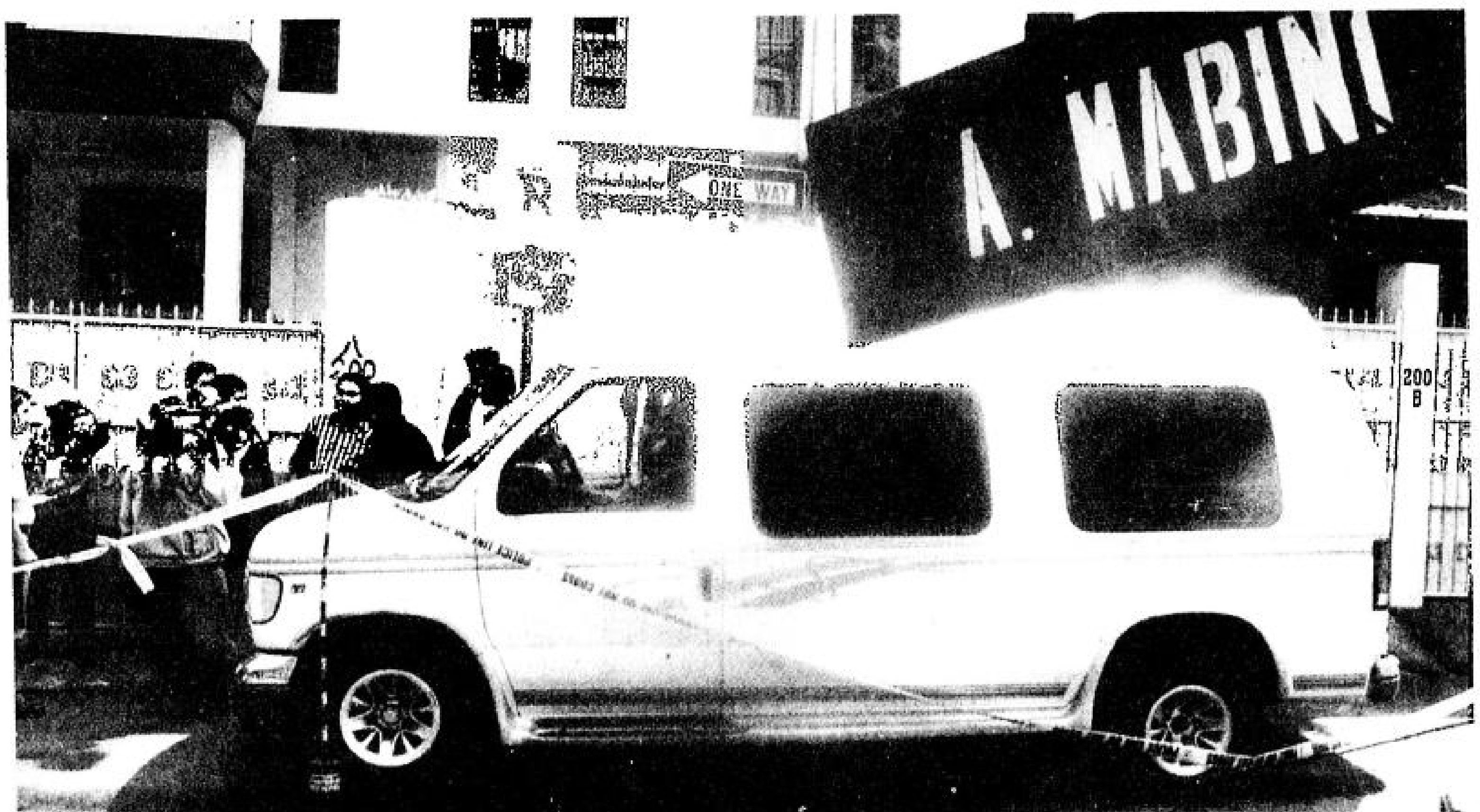
The 38 fishermen were aboard two fishing vessels with bow numbers 62116 and 62112, which a Navy gun boat and members of Task Force Malampaya intercepted at 32 nautical miles northwest of El Nido town north of Palawan and 5 miles from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project platform.

They were apprehended only hours before Li Peng, chair of the National People's Congress of China, and that country's second highest official arrived in Manila for a four-day visit.

According to the Western Command (Wescom) statement sent yesterday to the Palawan Times, the boats were in the actual conduct of fishing when they were spotted by the patrolling team. Live fish were recovered from the vessels, each of which had 19 crew members.

The newly apprehended Chinese fishermen will face the same charges as that filed against the 122 others detained at the Palawan Provincial Jail—viola-

MORE/A18



WHERE it happened at the corner of Mabini and Guevara Streets in San Juan where Ledesma's white Ford Mark III van was blocked by an unmarked Isuzui Hi-Lander. JOAN BONDOC

Erap's man at Lung Center suspended

By Armand Nocum and Carlito Pablo

"I AM an Erap appointee, they have every reason to go after me."

Dr. Fernando Melendres, executive director of the Lung Center of the Philippines, yesterday lashed out at Malacañang for ordering his suspension on "petty" charges, saying he was merely being persecuted for his association with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The doctor is an uncle of former actress Joy Melendres, one of Estrada's acknowledged mistresses.

Melendres said the case to be investigated by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission showed that the charges were "fabricated and meant to harass me because I initiated reforms." He said he was bewildered over the fact that he was already suspended even though his case had yet to be formally filed before the PAGC.

Administrative Order No. 39, dated Sept. 11 and signed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, placed Melendres on a 90-day preventive suspension. Romulo said he was suspending Melendres because of the "gravity of the charges against him."

Romulo also authorized Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit to appoint an officer in charge to prevent any possible disruption

ERAP'S/A17

Old foe revives bugging raps vs Ping

By TJ Burgonio

CHIEF Supt. Eduardo Matillano, the new head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, vowed to pursue the dismissed wiretapping case he filed in 1998 against former Philippine National Police chief, now opposition senator, Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and several police officials.

Matillano said he would inquire from the Office of the Ombudsman about the status of the wiretapping charges he had sought to reopen in 2001.

Lacson said he was not surprised Matillano has decided to pursue the case.

"It goes without saying that politics, not crime fighting, is Matillano's priority," he said. "That's the kind of leadership the CIDG would have henceforth."

Lacson said it was ill-advised for Matillano to pursue the case "despite knowing that the case had been dismissed by the Office of the Ombudsman."

"There's nothing personal here. I'm just doing my job," Matillano said of his plans.

He said the "midnight changes" at the CIDG was an indication that "the main target would be (Lacson)."

The senator was referring to Matillano's appointment to the CIDG on Thursday, less than 24

OLD/A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/14/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

Gov't troops kill 17 Abus in Jolo

VILLAGERS of Punay, Panglima Estino take up arms following an encounter with the Philppine Marines on Wednesday.

DENNIS SABANGAN

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops have killed 17 Abu Sayyaf bandits in pitched battles since Wednesday on Jolo island, the head of the Marine forces in the south said yesterday.

One soldier also died and 11 soldiers were wounded in the clashes, said Brig. Gen. Renato Miranda.

However, only two of the bodies of the bandits were found, he said. The rest were believed to have been retrieved by the bandits as they escaped.

The bandits who were killed were of a group of 80 to 100 members of the Abu Sayyaf intercepted by Marine troops on Wednesday in the interior of Jolo, Miranda said.

"Fighting erupted and we suffered one killed and 11 wounded, but the bandits suffered 17 killed," Miranda said.

However, the former vice-governor of Sulu, Hadji Munib Estino, claimed that the incident which occurred in Panglima Estino village, resulted from the Marines assaulting the village on suspicion that Abu Sayyaf bandits were hiding there.

He said the Marines had killed two civilians, including a village official.

He identified one of the slain civilians as Abdurahman Sahidjan, a barangay official of Pandakan village.

Estino said Sahidjan and a carpenter were fixing the roof of the former's thatched hut when the Marines showed up. He said the soldiers ordered Sahidjan to get down from the roof.

"But they did not wait (for him to get down). They peppered him and the carpenter with bullets," Estino said.

He said the incident angered armed local officials who then fired back at the Marines, triggering a full-scale battle.

Estino said the military sent MG520 helicopters and fired rockets into the village, burning down several houses.

Miranda, however, maintained that "it was a legitimate encounter with the Abu Sayyaf."

"As to the personality of those who led the group, it is something that we still have to find out," Miranda said.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said the Marines had clashed with the followers of Abu Sayyaf leader Raddulan Sahiron.

"These local terrorists were evading the (military) attack in Patikul and fled towards Panglima Estino. Our men sighted and pursued them and I don't think we hit ordinary civilians, because those who returned fire were fully armed," Miranda said.

Miranda explained that the military has been very cautious in its operations in Sulu.

"We have been extra careful in the implementation of the military operation. We just don't fire at anybody and we don't kill hapless civilians. It's not how we undertake the operation," he said.

Estino said he would be inviting officials of the Commission on Human Rights in Panglima Estino to conduct an investigation.

The fresh number of casualties brought the number of rebels killed in the past three weeks to more than 30. Seven soldiers have died and 20 have been wounded.

Two more Army battalions and one Marine battalion were dispatched to Sulu yesterday to beef up the 2,000 soldiers already in Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, the commander in charge of the "Oplan Endgame" operation in Jolo, said there are now a total of nine battalions. This will be increased to 11 with the expected arrival of another two Army battalions.

"We have a lot of forces because we don't just want to rescue the hostages, we want to neutralize their (Abu Sayyaf) entire operation. That's why it is called Oplan Endgame. We don't want another of this in the future," Tolentino said.

Oplan Endgame was launched early this month by then Armed Forces chief Gen. Roy Cimatu who retired last week and was succeeded by Gen. Benjamin Defensor.

It was learned that Defensor would be flying today to Sulu to oversee the military operation.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding hostage four female Jehovah Witnesses Christian evangelists kidnapped on Aug. 20 and three Indonesian crewmen abducted from a Singaporean-owned tugboat while it was passing near Jolo on June 17.

Citing reports from the field, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, AFP public affairs chief, the four women captives and the three Indonesians were alive.

"There's no report that the two groups of hostages have been joined together although there are reports that the four (Jehovah's Witnesses) were turned over to Radulan Sahiron,"Servando said.

"There is also no report that Khadaffy Janjalani has gotten out of Jolo and we still maintain that he had joined forces with Sahiron in the area," he added. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, Martin P. Marfil, Manila, and Reuters*

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Palace decision to withhold IRA illegal—Pimentel

DAVAO CITY—"Wrong, illegal," was how Sen. Aquilino Pimentel yesterday described the Macapagal administration's decision to withhold half of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of local government units (LGUs) due to the rising budget deficit.

Pimentel, father of the Local Government Code, which prescribed the remittance of 40 percent of national revenues to LGUs, told reporters the move was detrimental to small towns.

Pimentel said third, fourth, fifth and sixth municipalities were very dependent on the IRA to pay personnel obligations and services.

Projects beneficial to the people would also suffer, the senator added.

Under the law, Pimentel stressed, the IRA could only be reduced with the concurrence of the Senate and Congress.

Instead of reducing the IRA, Pimentel said, government should cut its expenses by 20 percent.

Many government agencies continued to indulge in "unnecessary, extravagant spending" because Malacañang had not imposed specific cost-cutting measures," he said.

As an example, he gave the recent P50-million anniversary celebration of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Specifically, Pimentel pointed out, government should freeze the hiring of consultants, contractuals and casuals; ban foreign travels; suspend media advertisements except those required by law; and reduce consumption of fuel, water, electricity and office supplies.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona said the Macapagal administration should in fact increase the IRA by 10 percent.

In Cotabato City, Mayor Muslimin Sema blamed the reduction of the IRA to the creation of new cities.

Sema said his city lost about P65 million. *Ayan C. Mellejor with a report from Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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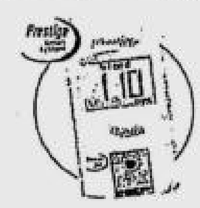

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AMENDMENT IN THE SCHEDULE OF ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS

As duly approved by the AFPSLAI Board of Trustees, starting 4th quarter of 2002 (September 15 – December 14), placement date for additional capital contributions is extended up to the 17th of the month of September, December, March and June. The computation of dividends shall be based on the lowest quarterly balance as follows:

DEPOSIT DATES	COVERAGE FOR DIVIDEND COMPUTATION	
Not later than the 17th of		
September	Sept 15 – Dec 14	4th Quarter
December	Dec 15 – Mar 14	1st Quarter
March	Mar 15 – Jun 14	2nd Quarter
June	Jun 15 – Sept 14	3rd Quarter

For further details, visit our branch office nearest you or call us at telephone nos. 911-6732, 911-5977, 911-6576, 911-2032 to 33 locals 2115, 2131, 2304, 2305, or 2309.

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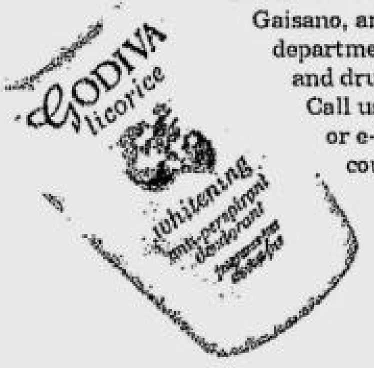

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Sto. Tomas bats for equality of opportunities in workplace

By Blanche S. Rivera

ALL Filipino workers are created equal.

Or so the Department of Labor and Employment believes.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday urged companies to provide "equal employment opportunities" for all, regardless of where job applicants finished tertiary education.

In a statement, Sto. Tomas yesterday said graduates of "other schools" found it difficult to land jobs, compared with their counterparts from top academies.

The DOLE said many companies openly specified in job advertisements that they would entertain only applicants from the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University, or give them priority.

Sto. Tomas said she would support any legislation that would espouse a no-discrimination policy and sanction firms that showed preference to graduates of certain schools.

The Labor department is also lobbying for the elimination of gender discrimination in job advertisements.

Citing the deployment of some 638,000 overseas Filipino workers so far this year, the DOLE reiterated that every OFW is gifted, dedicated, and reliable.

It said local industries should look to the example set by OFWs and "start stimulating more balanced opportunities (here) at home."

EDWIN BACASMAS

ENEMIES ONCE
The Presidential chopper hovers above Marinduquenos headed for the Shrine of Pulang Lupa in the mountains of Torrijos yesterday, the 102nd anniversary of a landmark battle against the Americans.

World Bank lauds RP for CFC phaseout plan

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

The World Bank has lauded the Philippines' efforts to totally phase out in eight years the use of substances that destroy the ozone layer and adversely affect life on the planet.

Foremost among these substances, referred to as ozone-depleting substances (ODS), are chloroflurocarbons, or CFCs, which are used in the cooling systems of airconditioners and refrigerators.

Zafer Ecevit, sector director of the WB's Environment and Social Development Sector Unit for East Asia and the Pacific Region, has written Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to say he was pleased with the government's preparation of the National Chlorofluorocarbon Phase Out Plan (NCPP).

"I sincerely believe the commitment of the Philippine government to carry out the plan . . . (towards a) complete chloroflurocarbon phaseout by 2010," Ecevit said.

The country global community is currently celebrating International Preservation of the Ozone Layer Month.

Along with the World Bank, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) has also been assisting the Philippines in its observance of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which aims to protect the ozone layer from ODS.

Alvarez authored a Senate resolution in October 1991, which paved the way for the Philippine ratification of the global treaty.

CFCs, like freon or halon, destroys the protective ozone layer in the stratosphere, allowing into the Earth's atmosphere lethal ultraviolet rays that cause cataracts and skin cancers, destroy the human immune system, and disrupt the food chain by killing phytoplanktons, the basic food of fishes.

In recognition of its program on ODS, the Philippines won two prestigious distinctions in 1997—"Outstanding National Ozone Unit Award" from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and "Leadership in the Phaseout of ODS in the Solvent Sector Award" from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

But in 2000, the country imported 1,330.43 metric tons of CFC, offsetting agreed phase-out targets. Alvarez sacked a top DENR official and filed administrative charges against him for allowing the illegal imports.

"Now," he says, "we are on the right track."

Ecevit also congratulated the DENR for working with the Bureau of Customs in strictly monitoring the entry of ODS into the country.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two agencies last July 24 was "significant and timely" Ecevit noted.

He assured the Philippine government of the World Bank's continued support in implementing the CFC phaseout plan.

New DepEd head urged to scrap Roco work

By Donna S. Cuetó

NOTED academicians, including a former mentor, have asked incoming Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus to stop the current implementation of the Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) that was "rushed" by former Education Secretary Raul Roco.

The recently-formed Educators' Forum for Development (EFD) said it had conveyed to De Jesus that the BEC, also known as "millennium curriculum" was "causing havoc in the educational system."

Bienvenido Lumbera dared his former student at the University of the Philippines, who starts work as Education chief on Monday, to uphold "intellectual integrity" by immediately scrapping the controversial curriculum.

"De Jesus knows . . . that this latest restructuring of the curriculum is basically a flawed process with a flawed basis, that can only lead to a flawed result," said Lumbera, who chairs the forum.

He personally thought the BEC was anti-academe, Lumbrera explained, not only because the academic community was not consulted, "but more so because the restructuring was premised on the wrong understanding of what basically ails the Philippine education system."

The EFD chair added that the BEC implementation "insulted" the teachers, who were ignored in the revision process, and then required to attend last-minute seminars on the restructured subjects. But, he warned, "The greater fear is the effect that the BEC might have on the Filipino youth."

Members of the EFD include private and public school teachers, administrators, school personnel and education officials from all over the country. It was organized last May in a Davao City congress with the goal of promoting "transformative education" in the pursuit of "genuine development, justice, peace and freedom" in the Philippines.

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Shown in the photo are GIBSON'S® SHOE FACTORY, INC., President, MR. ANTONIO E. ANDRES, SR. (Front Row third from right), MR. ANTONIO C. ANDRES, JR., Vice President and Production Manager (Front Row, second from left), MS. ARLENE ANDRES, General Manager, and MRS. LEONOR ANDRES, Board Chairman). Also in the photo are representatives from the AFP: RET. GEN. DAMIANO YALA (Second Row, fourth from left), COL. FERNANDO NIDUAZA, the AFP Quartermaster General (Second Row, fifth from left), COL. ESTRELLA, Commanding Officer of the Army Support Command (Front Row, right-most), representatives from ILLIES ENGINEERING, PHILS., and DESMA, the producer of shoe manufacturing equipment headed by MR. KLAUS MEYER, DESMA - Germany, and other representatives from AFP Logistics and the SRDP Management Offices.

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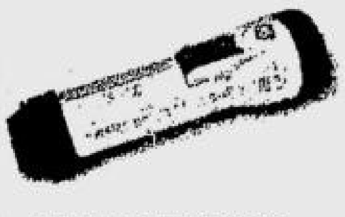

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Rebellion raps vs Enrile junked

ENRILE

By Agnes E. Donato

A QUEZON City judge has dismissed the government's rebellion case against former senator Juan Ponce Enrile arising from the bloody siege of Malacañang in May 2001, saying the charges were based on hearsay.

Enrile was accused of allegedly participating in a supposed coup plot against the Macapagal-Arroyo government during the so-called Edsa 3 uprising by followers of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada in May 2001.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño accused Enrile and his still unidentified cohorts of "conspiring and confederating (with) and helping one another" in directing the Estrada loyalists "to attack, assault, siege, take over Malacañang" with the intention of overthrowing the Macapagal government and re-installing Estrada.

But Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao said the government failed to present "even a scintilla of admissible evidence" against Enrile.

Yadao cited an earlier Supreme Court ruling saying that the evidence presented by the government—a sworn statement of Army Sgt. Pablo Bala Jr. and a joint affidavit of National Bureau of Intelligence agents Martini Cruz and Geovel Aperio—was hearsay.

Bala, Cruz and Aperio had claimed that while on duty at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on May 1, 2001, they received reports that pro-Estrada rallyists, allegedly led by Enrile, Ronald Lumbao and others, had started marching from the Edsa Shrine towards Malacañang.

The government claimed that the actions of the protesters constituted an armed uprising as they had improvised firearms (*sumpak*), truncheons, shields and rocks, and used various vehicles.

Yadao also dismissed the testimony of two other witnesses that they heard Enrile, along with Jamby Madrigal and Rep. Butz Aquino onstage at various times making speeches agitating the rallyists, saying it was "only a theory that deserves scant consideration."

"Considering that not even a scintilla of admissible evidence is extant on record, there is no more reason to subject Juan Ponce Enrile to further trial," the judge ruled.

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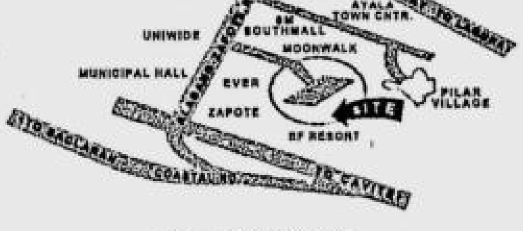

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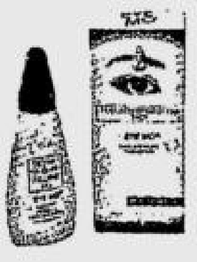

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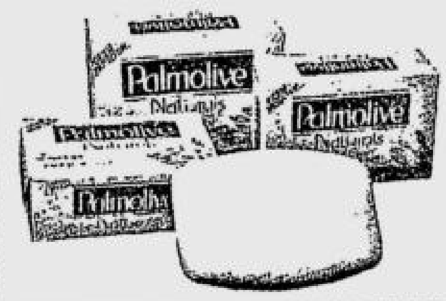

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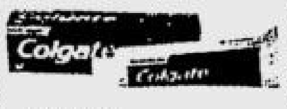

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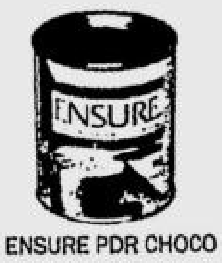

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Piatco wants monopoly of Naia 3—Serge O

IT was the Philippine Air Terminals Co.'s desire to monopolize the entire Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 operations that was behind Piatco's move to build a cargo terminal contrary to what was stipulated in its concessionaire agreement with the government, opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said yesterday.

Osmeña said Piatco wanted to corner all the cargo traffic going in and out of the new Naia 3, which was why it has chosen to construct a three-story cargo terminal instead of a proposed 2.7-km access road to the Naia 2 where there is already an existing cargo terminal.

"Obviously, Piatco wants a monopoly of all the operations in Naia 3," he said.

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) earlier issued a cease-and-desist order against Piatco to stop the construction of the cargo terminal after a Japanese quality assurance inspection team found that it did not conform with the "approved tender design."

Japan Air Consultancy Inc. (Jaci) issued the "non-conformance" after it found that the cargo terminal was being built in an area previously allotted to a water treatment facility and a parking lot. It also disapproved of an alternative site for the water treatment facility proposed by Piatco because of its closeness to public areas.

"The top half of planes that come in are for passengers while the lower half is for cargo. So you can just imagine the volume of cargo that Piatco would want to handle on its own," Osmeña said.

In not constructing the access road, Osmeña said airlines would be left with virtually no choice but to use the cargo terminal it was building.

In such a case, Piatco would have a singular hold on the cargo operations at Naia 3, he said.

"With the access road, it would be much easier to get to the existing cargo terminals located in the vicinity of Naia 1 and Naia 2," Osmeña said.

In separate statements, administration Senators Robert Barbers and Ralph Recto said they was need to look deeper into the alleged irregularities that have tainted the Terminal 3 project.

"If Piatco was not able to conform with international safety and efficiency standards by constructing a cargo terminal . . . even without the approval of the government, it is highly possible that other violations may have been committed by (Piatco)," Barbers said.

Recto noted that in the wake of reports that Piatco consultant Alfonso Liongson was paid a whopping $2.1 million for "public relations services," the Senate should look into putting a cap on consultants' fees in government contracts.

"Consultants' fees are closely held secrets and not open to scrutiny," Recto said.

During the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings into the controversial project, Piatco president Cheng Yong admitted recommending the hiring of Liongson as a consultant for public relations services but could not otherwise specify what the huge consultancy fees paid to him were for. *Rocky Nazareno and Norman Bordadora*

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Chavit going abroad to 'cool down'

Volt Contreras

LUIS "Chavit" Singson, the star witness in the plunder trial of jailed ex-president Estrada, can't wait to take a long sought-after breather.

A foreign trip next week to an undisclosed destination is how the former Ilocos Sur governor plans to "cool down" (*magpalamig*) after his marathon testimony in 16 hearings against his estranged and jailed friend.

"I'll be out of the country, somewhere nearby, to take a rest," he said in Filipino in a phone interview.

After grilling him for 13 hearing days since July 31, Estrada's lawyers ended their inquisition last Wednesday, confident they had destroyed his credibility.

"I am now probably the witness with the longest time at the stand in the history of our courts," Singson said.

He said he was was still receiving death threats through text messages up to the very eve of his last day on the stand.

While he goes on holiday, Singson will be virtually passing the hot seat to former members of his staff who will be called to the Sandiganbayan next week.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—"Good reasons" for execution pending appeal—If in the mind of the court, taking into consideration the facts and circumstances surrounding the case, good reasons exist, the exercise of the power to issue immediate execution of the judgment cannot be considered as grave abuse of discretion. Provided there are good reasons for execution according to the judgment of the trial judge, such judgment should generally not be interfered with, modified, controlled, or inquired into by the appellate court; the latter should generally not substitute its way of thinking for that of the trial court, otherwise, the discretionary power given to the trial court would have no meaning. The appellate court may, however, interfere with that discretion lodged in the trial court only in case of grave abuse or in case conditions have so far changed since the issuance of the order as to necessitate the intervention of the appellate court to protect the interests of the parties against contingencies which were not or could have not been contemplated by the trial judge at the time of the issuance of the order. [Reference: City of Manila v. Court of Appeals, 72 SCRA 98 (1976)] [Justice De Leon Jr., Second Division, Fortune Guarantee and Insurance Corp. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 110701, March 12, 2002] DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 14, 2002
Exaltation of the Holy Cross

1st Reading:	Num 21:4-9
2nd Reading:	Phil 2:6-11
Gospel:	Jn 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "No one has ever gone up to heaven except the one who came from heaven, the Son of Man.

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through him the world is to be saved."

Commentary

Through the course of centuries the discourse on the cross has lost by and large its impact. This powerful symbol has been domesticated by Christian ritual. It has become more of a beautiful decoration, sometimes made of precious metals, studded with equally costly gems and of other valuable materials. It has lost its shocking message. In the first centuries of the Christian or common era, it was taboo to talk of the cross. To die on it was an utter disgrace, reserved for the worst of criminals. That is why, it must have been shocking for Jesus' listeners to hear his demand of discipleship as a taking of one's cross. If there is anything good in it, it is because in seeing Jesus on the cross we see not only the rich and powerful's inhumanity to other humans but above all God's unconditional love for all!

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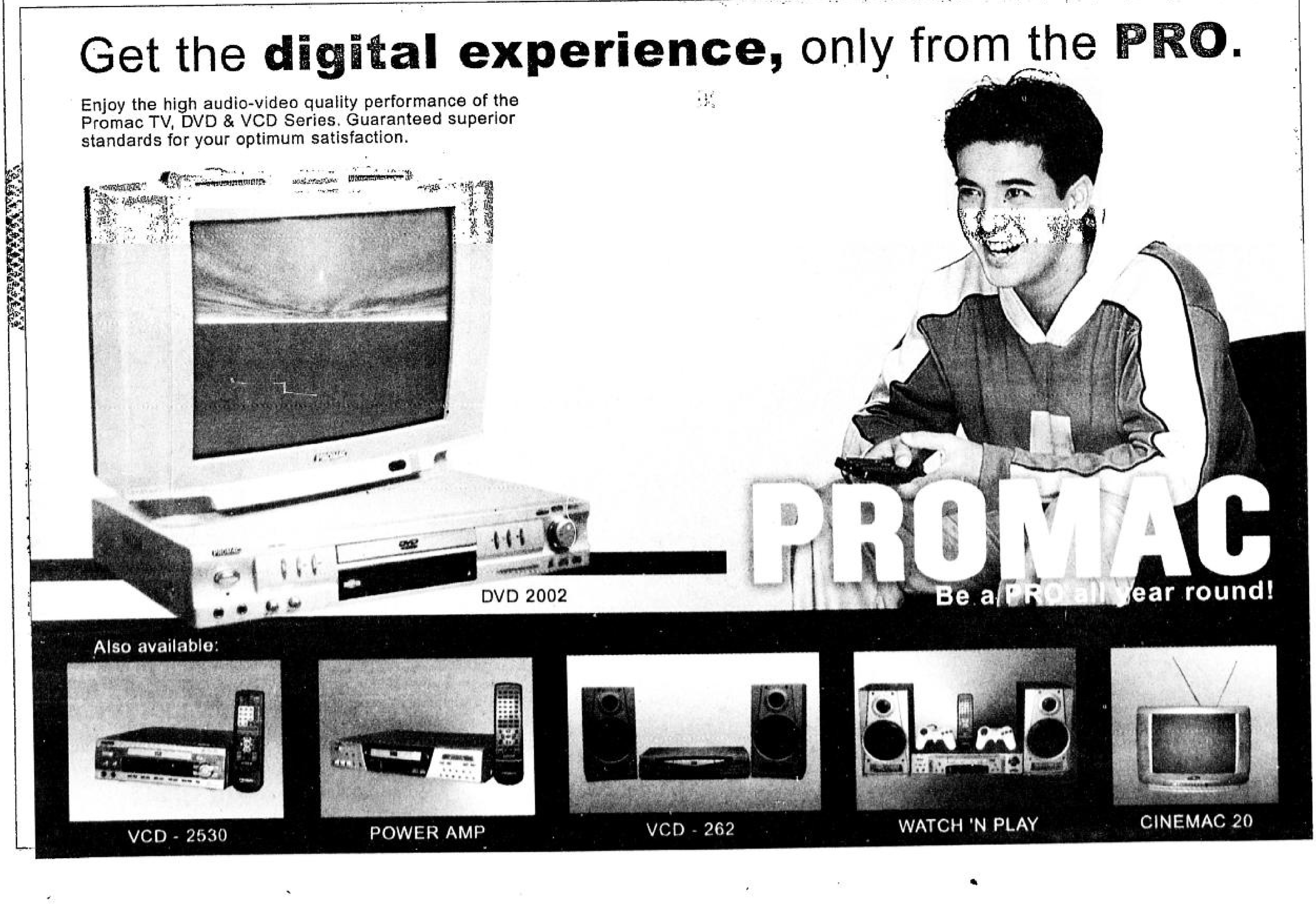
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RP, Malaysia downplay tensions

KUALA LUMPUR—Philippine Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Tun Razak yesterday downplayed tensions between the two countries over accusations of ill-treatment of Filipino deportees.

Reyes, who arrived late Thursday with aides of President Macapagal-Arroyo and military officers, said his visit was to reaffirm good relations between the neighbors.

"There is this issue of the deportees, and so we felt that this is as good as any time to visit," he told reporters after holding talks with Najib.

Reyes, who is the highest ranking official to visit Malaysia since the deportees' issue blew up last month, said both countries had maintained good relations and welcomed the move by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to call for a full investigation into the allegations.

"This (visit) is part of a practice of meeting each other.

"It is a further strengthening of the channels existing between both countries," he said.

Earlier, in a joint release, the ministers said both governments wished to reaffirm "close and warm relationships as portrayed by the excellent rapport" between Mahathir and Arroyo.

"Malaysia and the Philippines would like to see that the issue (of deportation of Filipinos) should not be sensationalized to the extent that it would jeopardize the existing good relationship between both countries." The Philippines had sent two protest notes to Kuala Lumpur complaining that some of the thousands of Filipino deportees had been abused and ill-treated at holding centers in Malaysia's Sabah state.

Arroyo also complained in a letter to Mahathir that a migrant girl had been raped, reportedly by a Malaysian policeman at a detention center.

Mahathir pledged swift action on the case and ordered a moratorium on the deportations which were part of Malaysia's crackdown against illegals who can be caned and jailed under new tough punishments. *AFP*

Gov't urged to set up Sabah commission

THE MACAPAGAL administration should put up an "economic and cultural commission" in Sabah to attend to Filipinos living there.

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin made the call yesterday saying the proposal would not compromise the country's claim over Sabah.

Salapuddin acknowledged that establishing a consulate in Sabah instead of an economic and cultural commission would have "political ramifications" on the territorial dispute.

He said a "permanent body" was needed to attend to Filipinos in Sabah following the Malaysian crackdown on all illegal aliens.

He also urged the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Labor and Employment to establish satellite offices in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi so residents would not have to go all the way to the DFA office in Zamboanga City for their passports and working papers. *Christine O. Avendaño*

50 NPA rebs raid AFP post in Surigao

CLASHES between government troops and communist rebels continue, reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo revealed.

The latest attack came on Thursday when about 50 New People's Army rebels attacked a military detachment manned by civilian volunteers in San Agustin, Surigao del Sur.

The attack, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando of the military's public information office, was repulsed as those manning the detachment were warned of the impending attack.

No casualties were reported.

On Wednesday, another group of militiamen clashed with NPA rebels in Rosario, Agusan del Sur.

The ten-minute firefight resulted in the death of a rebel and the recovery of an M-1 carbine.

Government had earlier announced that it was redeploying its forces to deal with the NPAs, saying that the Abu Sayyaf had been "degraded." *Martin P. Marfil*

UST museum curator talks on collections

CURATOR Fr. Isidro C. Abano, O.P. will conduct a lecture on the recently renovated collections of the University of Sto. Tomas Museum on Sept. 21 at the National Museum.

Abano, the UST Museum curator, teaches a diploma course on cultural heritage studies at the UST Graduate School.

The lecture will start at 10:00 a.m. at the Tambunting-Villonco Hall, 4th floor, Museum of the Filipino People, Rizal Park.

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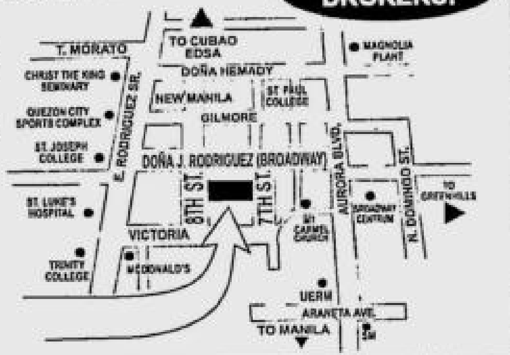

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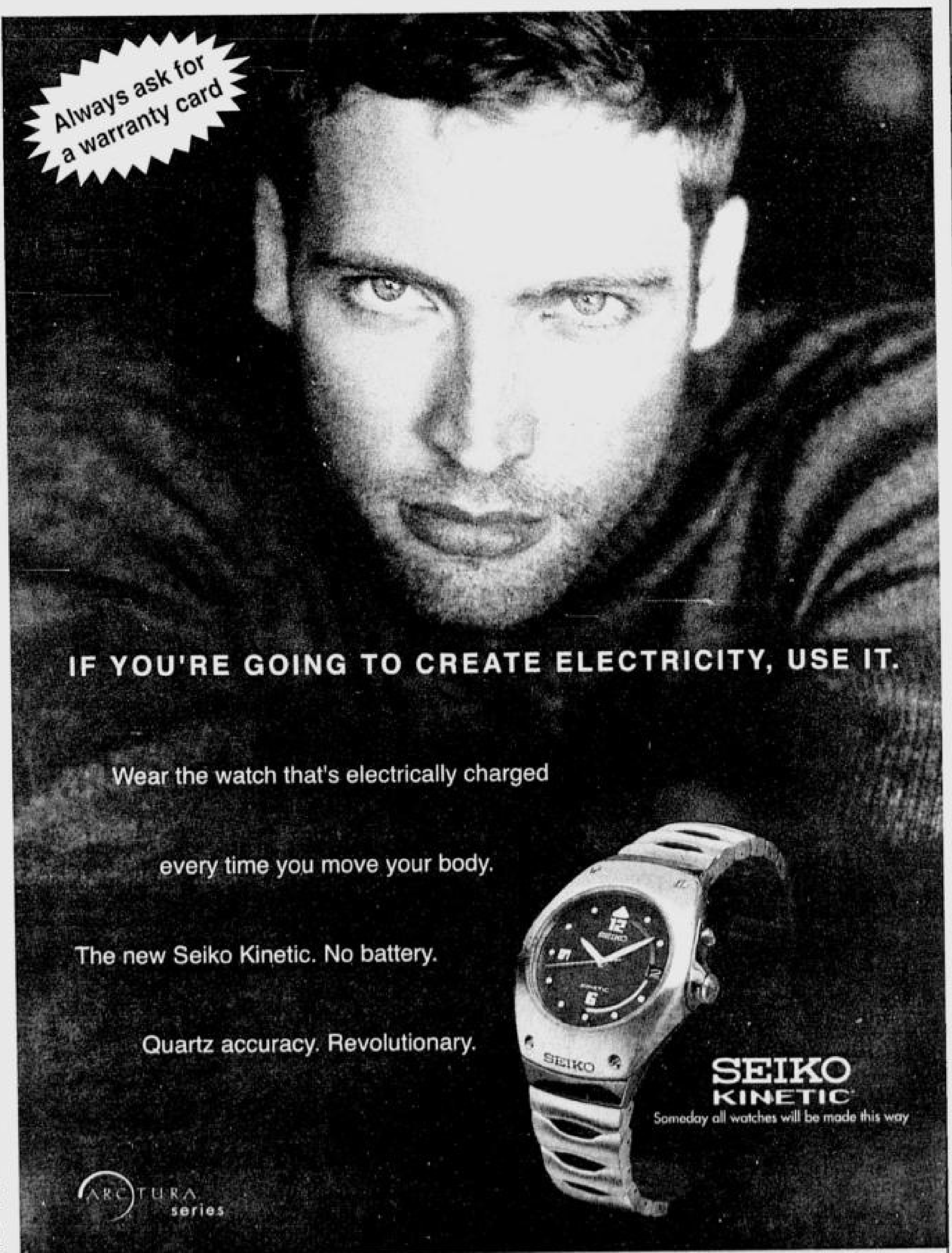
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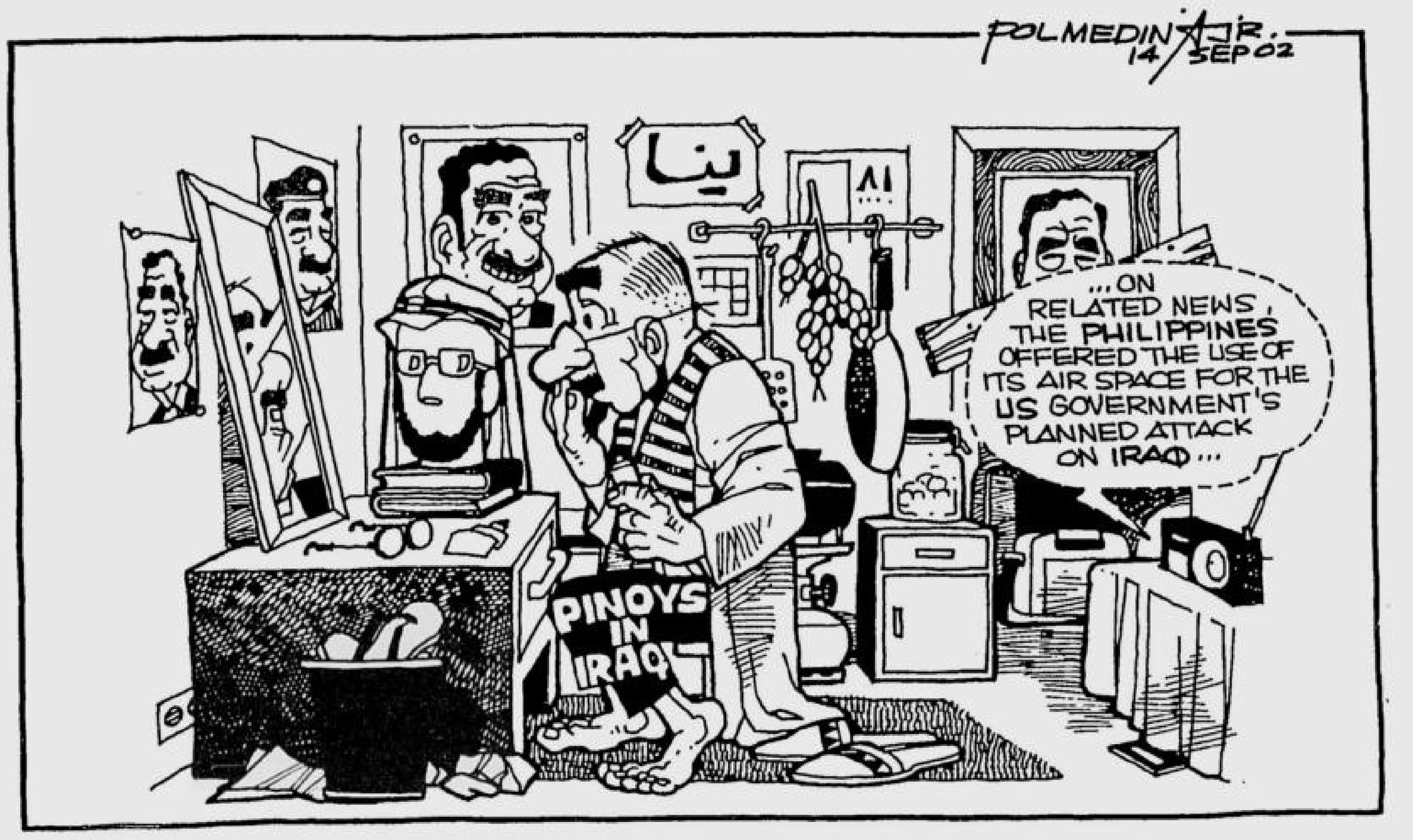
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PINOYS IN IRAQ

Cosmetic measures

EDITORIAL

THE LARGE-SCALE deportation of Filipinos from Sabah has put Philippine-Malaysian relations to a severe test. Sadly, the efforts to ease the strained relations have mainly consisted of cosmetic measures aimed at appeasement, mainly by Malaysia, and expressions of protest on the part of the Philippines that are so tame and restrained as to skirt rather than strike at the heart of the difficult issues.

Malaysian Ambassador Noor Taufik has had the unenviable task of navigating through the shoals of the diplomatic trouble. But his defense of the mass deportation, while careful to outline Malaysia's immigration problems and policies, consists mainly of laying the blame squarely on the Philippines for ignoring Kuala Lumpur's warnings that it would crack down on illegal aliens. In one statement, he even chided the Philippines for ingratitude at the way it was reacting.

Does he mean the Philippines should be grateful for seeing Filipinos herded to cramped and ill-equipped concentration camps where they are served once-a-day meals that even animals wouldn't touch? Does he mean the Philippines must be thankful for seeing Filipino mothers and their infants squeezed into ships where they are exposed to the elements and where, in fact, some of them have died? Does he mean that Filipinos should be grateful for seeing their countrywomen abused and raped by the Malaysian authorities? Does he mean that the Philippines should be grateful for seeing its citizens deported by the thousands from Sabah, to which Manila has a standing and very strong historical claim since the 1960s when the Federation of Malaya was forged by British colonial machinations?

Taufik, otherwise a man of culture and refinement, has always reminded the Philippines that Kuala Lumpur did not just wake up one day and decide to drive away Filipinos and Indonesians from Sabah and that sufficient warning had been served on Manila and Jakarta. But certainly he should be reminded that going by the inhumanity that has attended the deportations, Kuala Lumpur itself seems not to have prepared for the contingencies. While Kuala Lumpur can exercise its rights and powers in dealing with immigrants, it must also respect the rights of the deportees. International conventions bind KL to responsible and humane treatment of illegal aliens.

Nur Jafaar, the former congressman who has been assigned by President Macapagal-Arroyo to head the Philippine fact-finding team to Sabah, has exercised more diplomatic politese than diplomatic forcefulness in seeing that Malaysian authorities implement humane deportation procedures. He said the condition of the Filipinos in the deportation camps was "fairly good" although he himself knew that Sabah officials presented them refurbished camps, not the camps with inhumane conditions that had been the lot of most Filipinos.

While it is understandable that Jafaar should stay within diplomatic bounds to find a diplomatic solution to the problem, he should not sugarcoat the reality. To do so would be to trivialize the agonies of the deportees, especially the infants and young children who have died in the harshness of prison conditions and the women who have suffered abuse and even rape at the hands of the Malaysian police.

Jafaar must not use mollifying words if only because only a fraction of Filipinos illegally staying in Sabah have been deported and many more will suffer if the harsh deportation conditions and procedures are not improved. While Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad may have halted the crackdown, the strong immigration policy remains, and the Philippines and Indonesia should expect a new wave of deportees as Malaysia presses on with the deportations.

Which means now is as good a time as any for Manila to make sure that Kuala Lumpur observes all the international conventions that protect the rights of immigrants and deportees. Crucial to making Kuala Lumpur follow international law and humane rules of conduct is for Manila to press on with its protest against the manner of the deportations as well as building a strong case against Malaysian policemen who have abused and raped Filipino women, one of them only 13 years old.

For its part, Malaysia has shown a willingness to operate by the rules of transparency, permitting the Philippine fact-finding team to check the conditions of the Sabah camps and allowing Philippine participation in the investigation of the rape complaints. It must show even greater transparency and openness in the days to come as the Philippines makes sure that neighborliness be constituted in reality, not in empty diplomatic rhetoric.

Aerial aggression

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT has become obvious that the Air Transportation Office under Adelberto Yap is not at all bothered by the serious problems of the residents of Merville and adjacent villages in the cities of Parañaque and Las Piñas.

We have been complaining about the noise and air pollution caused by the intrusive airplanes that fly over our places of residence to the detriment of our health, convenience and right of repose. The ATO couldn't care less.

I have written about this problem in this column many times over the years, but to no avail. We have received no relief from the successive administrations of Presidents Fidel V. Ramos, Joseph Estrada, and now Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

They have turned a deaf ear to our protests in favor of Cebu Pacific and Air Philippines, the airlines polluting our airspace and violating our human and constitutional rights. They're the powerful companies the government listens to with servile attention.

All the authorities have given us are soothing words and promises of remedial action. Such remedy has yet to come, if at all. Meanwhile, the privileged airplanes endanger our health, disturb our repose, ignore our comfort and convenience, interrupt our conversations, and depreciate our property values.

The children are especially injured, including infants roused from sleep and the students enrolled in the several schools operating in the invaded areas. Before he became a senator, Noli de Castro aired a television program featuring the complaints of residents against the arrogant airplanes. Among those who spoke were schoolchildren, adult residents, and several noise experts who warned of the adverse effects of the insolent intrusions.

All the government did was shrug its shoulders. The airlines had argued that their transfer to another transport or the installation of hush kits in their airplanes would entail much expense that would deplete their profits. That was sufficient excuse for the government to do nothing.

Through our own initiative some years ago, the ATO promised to limit the airplane flights over our community to certain hours in the daytime. But this rule was soon and often broken. The airplanes awakened us at night or early in the morning with brazen arrogance. All the ATO did was offer token apologies and nothing more.

I wrote another article against the abusive airplanes last July and two days later Sen. Loren Legarda invited me to a lunch to discuss our problem with Yap. This retired general first smugly said our complaint was "moot and academic" but softened when he realized I was not his enlisted man. He then promised to help us, but rather vaguely.

Senator Legarda also referred our complaint to Sen. Joker P. Arroyo, chair of the committee on public services, environment and natural resources, who called a hearing. It was attended by many residents from Merville and other affected communities. Also present was the leader of our campaign, Semito Alparce, who was ready to demonstrate his impaired hearing caused by the airplane noise.

As before, Yap promised to alleviate our problem, but Senator Arroyo asked him to specify his intended remedies. This time, the ATO chief reported several measures his office was taking for our protection, including—again—the limitation of airplane flights to certain hours in the daytime, especially on Sundays.

He cited the agreement with Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific reducing the "time window" for Runway take-off from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. to 10 a.m.-3 p.m. limiting their take-offs from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Air Philippines will reduce to four take-offs (B-737) Runway 13 within the 11 a.m.-3 p.m. time window. Six DC-9 of the Cebu Pacific will take-off Runway 13 within the same four-hour window.

Merville residents, not to mention people from adjacent villages, can testify under oath that these agreements are not being followed or enforced. The arrogant airplanes roar over us as early as at about 5:20 in the morning when many people are still asleep and continue harassing us even after the 3 p.m. deadline. Yap knows about this but has done nothing to correct or punish the infractions.

If Yap pleads ignorance or innocence of this irregularity, he should resign his office for incompetence and bad faith. We are done with supposed public servants who serve, not the public in general, but privileged affluent companies.

I am reporting this matter directly to Senators Joker P. Arroyo, Loren Legarda, Manuel Villar, author of a bill providing for aviation noise management and reduction in residential areas, and Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita, who has called for the investigation by his own chamber of complaints of the residents near the airport "against the noise pollution caused by the departing and arriving airplanes."

The conflict is between the protection of the health and welfare of the residents of Merville and other affected communities and, on the other hand, the reduction of the profits of the offending airlines if the government grants our legitimate demands. The choice, if we live in a just and humane society, should be obvious.

I cannot believe that one minor office in the Department of Transportation and Communications can be as insolent with the above-mentioned members of Congress as the arrogant airplanes it is protecting. The tremendous earnings of Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific cannot be more important than the wellbeing of the people they are oppressing.

Overwhelming approval for BF's campaign

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

NO doubt Pulse Asia and the Social Weather Stations will be, or are already, asking Metro Manilans about what they think of the performance of Bayani Fernando as Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair. There is nothing like a properly conducted and analyzed survey, with breakdowns by socio-demographic characteristics and complete with standard error, to enable us to determine with every measure of confidence what the public thinks.

But if the text messages that I receive in my daily radio commentary over dzMM, as well as the results of the GMA-7 "Debate" on Thursday evening which I co-host together with Oscar Orbos, are any indication, the response will be overwhelming approval for what Fernando is doing.

Eighty-two percent of the "Debate" viewers who texted in their votes were of the opinion that Fernando was serving the people well, while 18 percent held the opposite view, a ratio of more than four to one. As far as the radio texts were concerned, the ratio was even larger: more like 19 to one.

That kind of support—unsolicited, mind you—that the people seem to be giving Fernando, most politicians would have to spend millions on PR handlers and image-builders to try to achieve. Yet, especially if they are *trapos*, even if they give their eyeteeth to boot, they will obtain only a fraction of the popularity that BF (as he is called) seems to enjoy.

What has BF done to merit such approval? Basically, as he himself has put it, he is just implementing the law. And therein lies a message that our political leaders would do well to heed. Therein also lies the strongest indication yet, as far as I am concerned, that there is indeed hope for this country.

The message is that people, specifically Metro Manilans, are sick and tired of the way rules and regulations are for the most part ignored, and the anarchy that this causes. They are no longer willing to look the other way when officials behave as if they were above the law, or when citizens who break the law are coddled for political purposes. A few examples will serve to show the sentiments of the texters.

Jane Lim: BF we need your service. *Wag matakot sa* (Don't be afraid of) illegal vendors. Thanks.

VPR of Poveda: BF is doing the right thing. We admire his determination to clean MM unlike Cong. Syjuco et al. We want change—BF is the answer. We hate his detractors. Since Mr. Syjuco is on the vendors' side, why doesn't he accommodate them and bring them to his district?

M. Angelo: Mayor Atienza *takot mawalan ng boto. Politika ang* solution *niya na* 40 *na taon hindi ipektib* (Mayor Atienza is afraid to lose votes. His solution is political, which has been ineffective this past 40 years). We need drastic approach to change and get results.

Arturo: All my praises go to BF. He is a real hero for us here in Metro Manila. *Gayahin at suportahan natin siya* (Let us emulate and support him).

Ann Ramos: *Wala na talaga disiplina mga Pinoy, kanya-kanya basta makakaisa* (Filipinos really have no more discipline, they think only of themselves and how they can put one over others). If we can't observe discipline on the road, we can't move forward. *Nakakapika na talaga* (it is really frustrating).

These messages show that there is still hope for this country because one of the main reasons for our laggard development is that we are what Raul Fabella calls a "soft" and not a "hard" state. The basic difference between the two is that in the latter, the laws are obeyed strictly, while in the former, they are broken with impunity. It is heartening to know that more and more people express their support for "hard" leaders and their contempt for "soft" ones.

Another heartening sign is that people have not bought the "anti-poor" charges that have been hurled against Fernando to stir up anger against him. This indicates that more and more poverty is no longer accepted as an excuse for breaking the law, or that the "anti-poor" argument has very little basis. Which means that we might be beginning to have a discerning, rational public.

The logic of those who oppose Fernando seems to be that the sidewalk vendors are poor, while those that they inconvenience—the pedestrians who can no longer use the sidewalks, the motorists who get delayed by traffic jams caused by the vendors' activities—are all non-poor. And that the benefits derived from the vendors earning their living unimpeded are much greater than the combined costs of delay to the motorists moving to and from work and school.

Fernando claims that at most 10 percent of the sidewalk vendors are poor. But even if all of them are poor, it is ridiculous to think that those they inconvenience are all non-poor. Some crude calculations will show what the costs of this inconvenience are: For example, assume that one million (probably an underestimate) of our riding public on any given day—experience 15-minute delays as a result of vendor-caused traffic. That is the equivalent of 250,000 person-hours, or over 30,000 person-days wasted daily (assuming an eight-hour day), with whatever attendant income or productivity loss that entails. Add the cost of increased fuel use for the vehicles (including jeepneys) stuck in traffic; as well as the increased pollution and its health effects on the riding as well as walking public.

As one text message said: I support BF 100%.

Support for Bayani Fernando

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

CHAIR Bayani Fernando of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has been getting brickbats for his strong reform moves particularly toward clearing the sidewalks of illegal vendors and ensuring freer movement in the metropolis. But I think it's safe to say he has also won a lot of respect and support among the citizens who like what he is doing. I am fully behind Fernando since I am one of many Metro Manilans who have noticed how much the flow of traffic has improved, thanks largely to the fact that traffic cops and aides are on the job rain or shine, preventing undisciplined bus drivers from swerving and making them stick to their lanes. We also notice that despite the heaviest downpours lately, traffic keeps moving miraculously, unlike in the past when motorists found themselves in a hopeless gridlock for hours. Orchids to BF's cops.

* * *

Then, too, one can't deny that BF has made the metropolis cleaner and more orderly after the illegal vendors were relocated. Politicians like Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco are grandstanding when they take the side of the vendors' against the rest of the citizens who have been greatly inconvenienced by the loss of the sidewalks. BF is correct: If the politicians want to keep the illegal vendors in the sidewalks, they have to amend the law, but for as long as those laws are there, his mandate is to enforce them. The mayors should cooperate fully with Fernando since their constituents like what they see and experience.

* * *

Recently Israeli Ambassador Trit Ben-Abba invited some people to her residence to listen to visiting Israeli stage actor Gil Alon speak about the theater and arts in their war-torn country. We were all quite fascinated by his revelation that despite "the very high level of tension" in Israel today, where the continuing conflict between Israeli and Palestinian forces and the suicide bombings have dominated the headlines, theater is alive and well.

Alon pointed out that despite the war, there are some 2,000 to 3,000 theater productions a year in Israel, led by those of the national theater, called Habina Theater (literally, "The Stage"). Productions that hold 100 shows cannot be counted as successes as many more go on for months and even years. In fact, among the many groups doing theater is the Israel Army which, amid its war efforts, puts up plays by Federico Garcia Lorca and American playrights, among others. Alon noted that the number of people going to the theater in his country exceeds those going to football. Company managers make it their responsibility to take their employees to the theater periodically, or theater groups go to factories after office hours.

* * *

Many of us agreed with Alon that it is precisely the high level of tension in Israel that has channeled the people's energies into vigorous appreciation of theater and the arts, as deep-seated problems are run through what he called the "artistic filter" or the "theatrical prism." We Filipinos saw this for ourselves in the way we took to stage shows and *zarzuelas* during the Japanese occupation.

Alon said the most sensitive subject in Israel theater still is the Holocaust, and great care is made that its survivors are not offended in any way in the plays. What about themes on the current conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians? Alon stressed that out-and-out political and propaganda themes don't work well since the biggest fear of theater people is that their production would become "a newspaper on stage." But he noted that the Israelis and Palestinians are able to work well together in the theater, stressing that the lesson here is that "finally we are all the same."

* * *

The Israeli actor, who is also a Zen Buddhist scholar, revealed that while culture is understandably not a first priority of the Israel government, the various theater groups receive some form of subsidy, especially for efforts to reach the remote areas. Theater in Israel apparently has an early exposure in the lives of the citizens, as part of what Alon termed the young people's "culture basket."

Veteran stage actress Joy Virata, who was in the audience, later told this columnist how envious she was of the vigor of theater in Israel, and the support it gets from citizens and the government. By contrast, she noted how theater groups here, including the 30-year old Repertory Theater, have to struggle to survive.

* * *

For many months now, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and I have run a radio program on dzRH every Sunday at 9:15 p.m. wherein we focus mainly on private-sector efforts to help alleviate poverty. Our thinking is that the show could help sow hope and optimism amid the seeming hopelessness especially of the marginalized sectors by featuring the efforts of selfless citizens working to help the poor. One of our more successful topics involved the business of franchising, and Cecile and I can say we literally stopped traffic for two Sunday evenings. Taxi drivers called up our guest, Armando Bartolome, president of GMB Franchise Developers, the next day to tell they had to pull up at the curb to listen closely to our program. In these hard times everyone wants to make a little more money, and one of the best ways, it seems, is through the franchising business, which has grown in this country from 50 enterprises in the early 1990s to over 700 big, medium and small franchises today. Some of these businesses have shown phenomenal growth, such as Jollibee with earnings of over P17 billion a year, and Chow King, with P8 billion.

(To be continued)

Hold me, please

YOUNG BLOOD

EPL

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AFTER ALL the many trials I have had to go through, I have learned to cry softly. I find a place where no one can hear me cry. Crying is like screaming: it hurts but it makes you feel better.

Having gone through seven chemotherapy sessions and four operations by the time I was 21, I was hailed as some kind of Superwoman by relatives and friends alike. I was strong and invincible, they said.

To me the shoes were too big to fill, but I had to fill them anyway. I had to put on a brave front all the time, smiling and laughing, if only to hide the tears in my eyes.

But emotionally, the memories and images and details of that experience were weighing me down. They were like dark clouds hanging over me.

But I had to be strong—at least in everyone's eyes. I just couldn't show them how scared I was or how weak I sometimes felt.

I couldn't tell my family anything. I couldn't tell my then-significant other, Don, how much I needed him. I couldn't talk to anyone. I couldn't keep on bringing up what was hurting me because it hurt them also. I knew they were struggling, too. And I just couldn't bear to see sadness in their eyes—especially, if it were because of me.

I have learned to keep my mouth shut and smile. But sometimes, my smile hurts too much from the effort.

And every time I see my sad eyes, I feel like crying, for I see the pain, angst, suffering and frustration within me haunting me. It is overwhelming.

So I would lie awake while everybody else slept, and let the tears fall down freely. Somehow this lifted some weight off my chest. I was tired of feeling so heavy, tired of being so strong.

I became elusive. I detached myself from the people I loved most. And they mistook it for coldness and insensitivity. They thought that I didn't care at all.

I pushed them away like I did all the others, when in truth, all I really wanted was to touch them, to hold them in my arms, tell them how much I loved and needed them and how they meant the world to me. Still I knew I couldn't keep them close for then they would see the real me.

They didn't know that Superwoman wasn't all that great and strong. I got depressed and frustrated, but I had to hide my feelings. Everybody was watching me. They looked up to me, and I couldn't let them down and lose face.

To me, my family and Don were the real heroes of this story. The strength I had I got from all of them. Every time the thought of giving up crept in, I would think of them and then I didn't feel like giving up anymore. Surrender ceased to be an option.

I remember saying to myself, "*Mawala na ang lahat, huwag lang sila* (I can bear losing everything, except them)."

Now I feel that I'm losing them one by one. And that hurts me. But what hurts me most is not being able to tell them how I truly feel inside. I have built walls between us. I feel so alone, lonely and empty. Trapped and stuck in such a strange world. And I have nowhere to go.

But I have to go on and be strong, the way they expect me to be. If only for them, I will continue fighting. I will not give up. I have fought so hard to live and not to die, and I will keep on fighting.

Still I wish for that one day to come when everything will be just like it was then, when everything will be all right again. I want to fall down laughing and smile my biggest smile. I want to hear screams of delight. I want to have fun. I want to see happiness when I look into my eyes. I don't want to be scared anymore. I want to love, be loved and not fear rejection. To laugh, love, live and learn.

I want to be alive on my own terms. I want to finally be able to freely express my emotions. I want to believe that I don't have to hide anything from anyone anymore. And, when I look back, I wish I would feel no more frustrations and no more pain—just memories that would help me and sustain me.

In the meantime, I have to face the monsters in my head and grapple with all the issues and problems in my life. It's scary, I know, but I have to do it.

I have fought every inch of the way to keep moving. It has gotten me here so far and I'm not about to turn my back now.

I promise them all I will continue to fight the good fight until the very end.

If only someone would hold me now.

EPL, 22, had another major operation last April, and is now in remission. She still has to see her doctor regularly for check-up. She has stopped studying in the meantime but plans to finish her course next year.

What reproductive health means

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"LET us unite and fight against HB 4110 that will allow even a 13-year-old to have an abortion without her parents' permission!" the text message said.

I got the message not once but at least three times. And by the third time, I was sufficiently intrigued to look into this bill that could only have been filed, I was convinced, by the most foolhardy Filipino legislator. But as expected, the text message turned out to belong in the same league as premature announcements on the death of the Pope or of al-Qaida attacks on Catholic churches.

I got a copy of HB 4110, also known as the Reproductive Health Care Act, and found no mention in the same sentence or paragraph of 13-year-olds or even adolescents, and abortion. True, the bill provides for "reproductive health programs for adolescents" as well as programs for the "prevention of abortion and management of its consequences." But calling for programs responding to the reproductive health needs of young people and for programs that would prevent abortions and provide care for women suffering from post-abortion complications is not the same as saying 13-year-olds should be given the right to undergo abortion.

What the proposed legislation, which has its counterpart in the Senate, seeks to provide is really a guarantee to all people of reproductive age and beyond "access to information and education, and universal access to safe, affordable and quality reproductive health care services."

Many think "reproductive health care services" is only another term for family planning. Some malicious minds would even say, as one "pro-lifer" did in a TV show some years back, that "reproductive health" means "abortion." At a recent forum of the Reproductive Health Advocacy Network, called precisely to enlighten the media about HB 4110, one of the panelists told a story that made clear "reproductive health care services" go beyond just contraception or abortion.

* * *

THE STORY was told by Magdalena Bacalando, head of Mothers, a pilot community-based clinic in Letre, Malabon, managed by the women's health group Likhaan. It is the story of Aling Tali, 37, pregnant with her sixth child and married to an electrician who was, more often than not, jobless.

During her sixth pregnancy, Aling Tali twice went to the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital complaining of bleeding and pain in her abdomen. She underwent an ultrasound test and was sent home both times, assured that the bleeding would soon stop. Still, Aling Tali continued to bleed. She was then brought to the Jose Fabella Hospital, the country's largest government maternity facility, where, after some tests, the doctors sent her home again.

"Aling Tali continued to bleed all night," Magdalena said. "Just before dawn, she finally expelled a 26-week (about six months) old fetus. Her neighbors called me when, after an hour, she had not yet expelled her placenta. When I got to their shanty, I found Aling Tali very pale, like paper. I said that we needed to bring her to the hospital right away because she could bleed to death."

Hearing this, Aling Tali protested, saying she couldn't be brought to a hospital because they didn't have any money to pay for treatment. Her neighbors prevailed upon her, though and, bearing her on a folding bed, managed to rush her to the Tondo General Hospital in a jeepney.

* * *

"I FELT that it was only a matter of hours before Aling Tali would die," recalled Magdalena. When they got to Tondo General, they were told that the obstetrical and gynecological emergency room was up on the third floor, but that there was no available stretcher on wheels to take Aling Tali there.

"We improvised and wheeled her on a chair," said Magdalena. But when they got to the elevator, they found that it was stuck on the third floor. "We had to send someone to run up the stairs and bring down the elevator. It turned out that the janitor was sweeping the elevator and had stopped it at the third floor."

Despite the comic and near-tragic consequences of this story, it ended on a fairly positive note. Aling Tali survived the episode, she is home now although she is still very weak.

Getting Aling Tali's health history, Magdalena found out that she had long been saying that she no longer wanted to get pregnant, but could not practice family planning because her husband did not believe in it. Desperate, she figured she could have a tubal ligation without her husband's knowledge but was discouraged when the doctors said she needed to get her husband's signature on the consent form.

Hearing Magdalena's story, I wondered how soon Aling Tali would become pregnant again, what sort of health care she would receive during pregnancy, and if she could survive it.

* * *

ONE of the provisions of the Reproductive Health Care Act is that no woman would be refused access to reproductive health services solely for lack of consent of her husband or other family member. If this law had been in place, then perhaps Aling Tali needed not have put her life on the line with her sixth pregnancy.

"I am so afraid that my daughter might end up in the same boat as Aling Tali," declared Magdalena. "Which is why I cannot understand why some people say this bill would make abortion legal. To my mind, this bill would in fact prevent abortions since it would prevent unwanted pregnancies through family planning."

Reproductive health and rights is a matter of life and death—for women, for men and for children.

Travels through the Islands (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(What have we ever known about the Muslims? There's the unlamented Nur Misuari, the lost commands, the Abu Sayaff, the Pentagon Gang, the kidnappings, Sabah which was part of Mindanao but is now Malaysia's—or so they claim. In case you have any delusions or doubts left, here are two statements quoted by Isabel Anderson early in the last century.)

THEN Dato Mandi spoke: "I am here, El Raja Mura Mandi, representing the Moros. As I look about, I see far more Moros than the Filipino contingent, and if that is so, that is the reason it is called the Moro Province. When first the Americans came here, from the very beginning, whatever they asked me to do I did. I was loyal to them ever. Now I have heard a rumor that we Moros are in the hands of Filipinos...If the American government does not want the Moro Province anymore they should give it back to us. It is a Moro Province. It belongs to us."

Dato Sacaluran threw down the Moro challenge: "I am an old man. I do not want any more trouble. But if it should come to that that we shall be given over to the Filipinos, I still would fight."

Hadji Nangnui, who said he was a Samal, made the clearest statement of the Moro position: "The Secretary of War must look the matter in the face. We are a different race. We have a different religion; we are Mohammedan. And if we should be given over to the Filipinos, how much more would they treat us badly than they treated even the Spanish badly who were their own mothers and their own fathers for generations? How did they treat them? Think about it! Think twice! We far prefer to be in the hands of the Americans, who are father and mother to us now, than to be turned over to another people."

(Now you know. In the meantime Anderson gives us descriptions of picturesque customs and vistas long gone).

Under a canopy the Princess received us, a native woman whose descent was traced for many hundreds of years—said to be a pure Moro, although she looked rather Chinese—and who was recognized as of the highest social superiority, but had little political power. She herself was draped in varied colors, while her chamberlain wore a brocade coat of crimson and gold cloth. Behind her stood her maids bearing the gold betel-nut boxes and chow trays and umbrellas of her rank.

Luncheon was eaten in delightful little kiosks of nipa and bamboo, which had been built in a small palm grove. The dancing girls of the Princess, who had long nails protected by silver covers, gave us a performance afterwards. The women have a swaying, snake-like dance with waving arms and jingling of bracelets and "hiplets" (if I may be allowed to coin the word).

As we neared the town (Zamboanga), we suddenly saw a large flotilla of native boats, with tom-toms beating and thousands of flags fluttering—such a gay sight! Banners of all shapes, streaming and flapping and waving, and such colors and combination of colors—stripes of green and purple and orange in designs of lemon and red and magenta, serpentine flags and square ones, hung in all sorts of ways, and brightly colored canopies under which sat the sultans, and green umbrellas and yellow and bang--off went their small *lantakas*, a tiny native-made cannon--a most exciting reception!

We landed under triumphal arches and were driven in state carriages through lines of schoolchildren, who sang and threw us flowers from old Spanish gardens. The post was really beautiful, for it had much left from old Spanish times, and what had been done over had been done with taste. The green parade had a terraced canal passing through it, and avenues of palm; the officer's quarters smothered in flowering plants and fronting out over the glittering blue sea, were large and airy and finer than any we had seen before.

In Jolo or Sulu: The walled town is a most artistic little Spanish place, built once upon a time by the exiled Spanish governor Asturia, who made it a gem of a town, with small balustraded plazas and a hanging-garden sea wall, and a miniature wall with battlements and gates, and streets set out with shading trees. The pretty Officer's Club and quarters overhung the wall. The gates of the town are closed at night, and all the natives must leave for their houses outside before the "retreat," but there is a native market and a town built on piles over the water, which we visited.

We amused ourselves by going to Chino Charlie's and buying lanterns, and lunched at the Officer's Club. Afterwards we went out on the pier inhabited by the Chinese and looked for pearls—Jolo pearls are famous. We watched the Chinamen drying copra and went through their market, where water slugs were for sale.

(The Mindanao described had a better chance of escaping man-made calamities in the form of public officials with gargantuan egos. Between the war and the government, Manila didn't stand a chance.)

Manila seemed picturesque, and to have even more atmosphere, as I came to know it better. The old walls and churches and plazas and corners and quarters; the Pasig with its cascos and bancas plying about; the narrow streets winding through the suburbs, with old moss-covered walls, and peeps of tangled gardens within, and balustraded terraces, and the bowers of the pink blossoming "chain of love " (*cadena de amor*). It is indeed well-named, the Pearl of the Orient.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Ex-TV star's carnapping case

FORMER CHILD star Sugar Benedicto of the erstwhile TV soap "Ana Lisa" was arrested after she reportedly tried to steal a car in Quezon City. Benedicto, who is Vanesa Benedicto-Valenzuela in real life, was caught by Noel Gomez, owner of the car she allegedly tried to steal, and members of the Central Police District Office on Ortigas Avenue. She did not resist arrest.

Police said that on April 28, 2002, Benedicto posed as a car buyer to Gomez. The car owner accompanied her for a test-drive. After they agreed on the price, Benedicto asked Gomez to have the documents photocopied. But the moment Gomez stepped out of the car, Benedicto drove off. She was arrested after a chase and was detained at the CPD Station 8.

Benedicto was charged with carnapping before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on April 30. The case was raffled off to the sala of Branch 81 Judge Ma. Theresa dela Torre-Yadao.

On May 10, Benedicto posted the recommended bail of P180,000. She was released on the same day.

Three days later, Benedicto pleaded not guilty during her arraignment.

On June 10 Benedicto and her counsel did not appear at the pre-trail. A warrant was issued for her arrest and the trial was reset to July 2. But again, Benedicto did not make an appearance. Her bail was confiscated and forfeited in favor of the government.

On Aug. 5 the court proceeded to try her in absentia. Gomez was presented as the first prosecution witness.

Case status: The case is still on trial. Benedicto remains at large.

Armin Adina, PDI Research Department

Asia's modern-day miracle workers

THE FOUR or five consecutive issues of your paper containing stories about this year's Ramon Magsaysay awardees were to us a welcome respite from the daily menu of scandals, crimes and corruption the INQUIRER dishes out.

In a country where the supposed role models wallow in sickening opportunism, and where the major institutions are losing their legitimacy, it is indeed heartwarming to know the men and women whose philosophy in life is to effect change for the better in the lives of others. These miracle workers deliver results sans publicity.

India's Sandaeep Pandey is only 37 years old, and Pakistan's Dr. Ruth Pfau is already 73 years old. One isn't too young or too old to be of service and reach greater heights. They may remain incognito and may not have fat bank accounts commensurate to their work and talents, but at the end of the day, they can look at the mirror and honestly say, "We did a good job."

Our present breed of leaders has a thing or two to learn from these RM awardees. They should come down from their ivory tower, and do the difficult and dangerous tasks. This is the difference between the real leaders and the pretenders.

—JEMUEL PAOLO M. LOBO,
editor in chief, The Monolith;
RANDY SLY A. VARGAS, student council president, St. John Fisher School, Molino 3, Bacoor, Cavite

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Yorac just out on vacation

LET me correct a number of items in the column, Cocktales, of Vic Agustin last Aug. 23.

While it is true that Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee B. Yorac is now abroad, she is not there, as stated in the column, to try to stop $650 million in Marcos deposits from being withdrawn from the ailing Philippine National Bank. Neither is she holding talks with Swiss authorities in an attempt to reverse the new ruling lifting the freeze order on former Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco's accounts.

The PCGG chief went on a vacation leave starting Aug. 7, 2002 to Aug. 31, 2002 to visit her mother, sisters and their relatives in the United States and Canada. She usually takes this annual break, and it has become more imperative this year because one of her sisters was operated on for suspected cancer.

The PCGG is not talking because there is nothing to tell.

—NICK V. SUAREZ,
information officer,
Presidential Commission
on Good Government,
Mandaluyong City

Lower tax rates for small income earners

THIS is to express my support for Sen. Luisa Ejercito Estrada's proposal to review and, consequently, lower the income tax rates of those who earn little or have meager incomes.

Lately, I have been trying to budget my small salary. However, no matter how much I try, I still find my income not enough to enjoy life. And I am still single. What would happen if I got married and have my own family? Would I be able to make my family happy with the kind of money I make to support them?

I brood over the deductions on my pay slip, like my withholding tax which is the biggest. Actually, it would be less painful for me if I would see that the Bureau of Internal Revnue is doing its job well. But with all the negative issues thrown at the BIR, I can only say, "Oh, what a waste!"

Instead of increasing tax rates or looking for another possible tax base from which the government can generate more revenues, why not review the effects of these (income) tax rates, especially on low-income earners, consider ways to lower the rates and then seriously collect all taxes due the government?

—EUMAIDA C. PAALA, state auditor, COA-NIA, Tarlac City

NFA officials have no problems with council chair

PLEASE allow us to react to an issue raised by Ramon Tulfo against Secretary Angelito Sarmiento, presidential adviser on agricultural modernization, as chair of the National Food Authority (NFA) Council.

Tulfo quoted his sources at the NFA as saying, "Sarmiento went to the agency and ordered middle managers around."

We would like to clarify that as chair of the NFA Council, Sarmiento presides over its meetings to lay down policies and make policy decisions concerning food, particularly rice. The council is composed of the heads of the Philippine National Bank (PNB), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) or their representatives, and representatives from the Office of the President and the farmers' sector.

We never had a problem with Sarmiento since he took over the position. Until now, we haven't really seen any acts committed by him that are contrary to his official role as head of the council.

Up to this time, too, the NFA management has never received any complaints from our middle managers regarding any meddling with their work by Sarmiento.

—ANTHONY R. A. ABAD,
administrator, National Food
Authority, Matimyas Bldg.,
101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue,
Quezon City

More funds coming for immigration bureau

THIS is to clarify a news item titled "BI broke, closing shop by October if..." which appeared in the Aug. 28 issue of the INQUIRER.

In the article, Commissioner Andrea Domingo of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) warned that her agency will stop operations by October if the government fails to supplement its budget. According to her, the bureau will have no money left after September because its appropriation for the last quarter of the year will be used to pay its electric, water and telephone bills.

First of all, we would like to clarify that the reason behind the disconnection of telephone lines of the BI is not its failure to pay but the failure of the the Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Co. to give the BI a disconnection notice prior to the actual disconnection. This was disclosed by Elvira Presado, budget officer of the BI, during the first performance review conducted last Aug. 26.

Recognizing the agency's predicament, we immediately released P5 million to the BI. This represents an advance release of cash allocation from the P12.6 million unreleased allotment while the result of the first semester performance review is still being evaluated.

As soon as the results of the initial review are available, we will take the necessary steps to release the requirement for the last quarter of the year.

—REBECCA B. OLAYON,
officer in charge,
Training and Information
Service, Department of Budget
and Management,
Malacañamg, Manila

Servants of the world

AS one legislator put it, there seems to be a national desire, fueled by the government, for Filipinos to make themselves servants of the world.

The Philippine government is so desperate to earn this reputation that it has recently come out with an order that will make Filipinos more skilled servants in foreign households. Department Order 24-02, issued by the Department of Labor and Employment, mandates that any person wanting to work as a domestic helper in Saudi Arabia must undergo a training program with Tesda to hone her skills in the difficult art and the ersatz science of washing dishes, cleaning closets, using a vacuum cleaner (instead of *bunot*) and properly turning on and off air conditioners.

To our government bureaucrats, household chores are so complicated that they require more than the requisite one to two hours of orientation before one has a full grasp of these tasks. But do we really need to make ourselves so attractive to the world that we want them to know that out here even our servants are given some sort of formal training?

Come off it already! Don't insult our sisters and daughters too much.

—ARIEL SALVADOR,
32 Jacobs St., Filinvest Homes,
Cainta, Metro Manila

English proficiency and progress

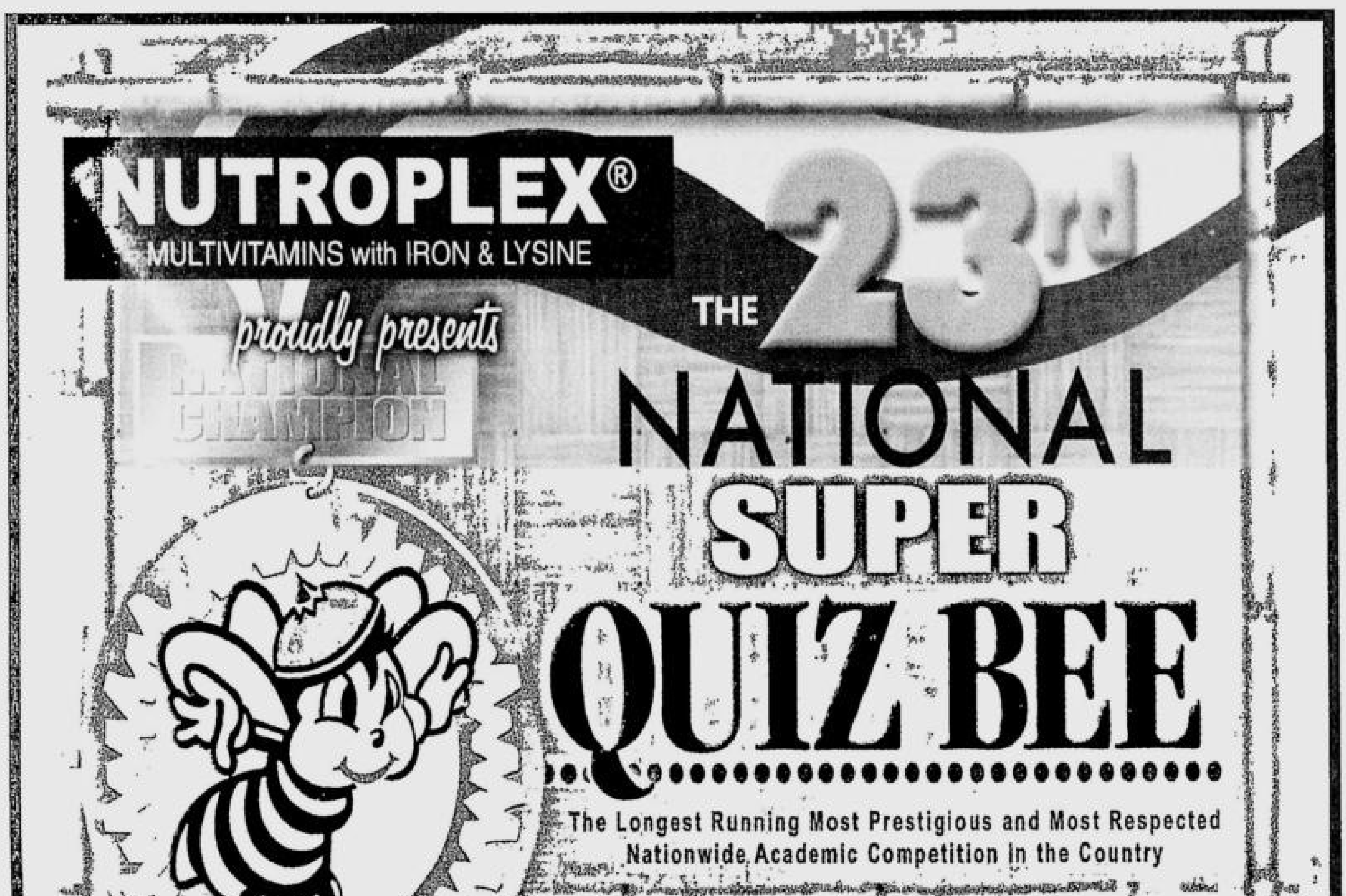
MAY I comment on the letter of Verna M. Alih last July 24?

Alih wrote that "the lack of proficiency in English is caused by the Department of Education which is implementing the use of the local dialect as the medium of instruction in the first four years of elementary education."

This is not correct. The use of the local dialect in the classroom is being undertaken as a pilot study only in specific regions and it has been implemented only during the last two years. Even if the region subscribed to the program, the English subject in the elementary grades was increased by 20 minutes in all grade levels; that is from 60 to 80 minutes for Grades 1 to 4 and from 60 to 120 minutes for Grades 5 and 6.

I think globalization is not only knowing and speaking the English language but also a product of a great deal of thought and the right attitudes of doing our share as Filipinos. Being less proficient in the English language is not that vital a factor in globalization. For example, the Japanese people use as their medium of instruction their own language and they have achieved very much in their economic development. Can we not do the same thing and progress?

—REBECCA B. CHAVEZ,
district supervisor, School District
5, Division of Pasig City
and San Juan, Pasig City



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Div. of Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros & Div. of Parañaque, Las Piñas	Sat., Sept. 14	TOWN	Oct. 5 & 12
Div. of Manila & Div. of Pasay City	Sat., Sept. 21	SM MANILA	Oct.19 & 26
Div. of Quezon City & Div. of Makati City	Sat., Oct. 5	ali mall	Nov. 2 & 9
Div. of Pasig, Marikina, San Juan & Div. of Mandaluyong City	Sat., Oct. 19	Robinsons Galleria	Nov. 16 & 23
Div. of Caloocan City & Div. of Valenzuela, Malabon, Navotas	Fri., Oct. 25	THE SM CITY	Nov. 30 & Dec. 7
Metro Manila Regional Finals	Fri., Nov. 8	Robinsons Place	Dec. 14 & 21

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Russian military ready to attack Georgia–minister

MOSCOW—Russia's military is ready to launch attacks in Georgia to flush out Chechen militants believed to be based in a remote, mountainous region, Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Thursday, as Georgia's leaders grappled for a response to the prospect of invasion by their behemoth neighbor.

Georgia has been under heavy Russian pressure for months to take aggressive action against the militants in the Pankisi Gorge, but its poorly equipped military, which has only about 17,000 men, has launched only one operation in the gorge, which has produced few results: the detention of 13 alleged criminals and one suspected Arab militant.

The pressure increased dramatically Thursday when President Vladimir Putin's press service released details of a letter he sent to world leaders outlining Russia's complaints about Georgia's inaction and asserting Russia's right to launch attacks in line with the United Nations charter's enshrining countries' right to self-defense.

The Georgian parliament took a similar tactic late Thursday, adrressing a statement to the United Nations, NATO and other international organizations stating that Putin "has placed in front of Georgia the threat of aggression."

Ivanov meanwhile told reporters that specific attack proposals would be presented to Putin in the near future. He added that such strikes "may not be needed" if Georgia takes appropriate measures, the Interfax news agency reported.

But whether Georgia has the strategic capacity or political organization to soothe the Kremlin's anger was unclear after a Georgian Security Council meeting Thursday.

Georgian Defense Minister David Tevzadze said the government would take both diplomatic and internal policy steps to defuse the crisis, but refused to give details. Parliament speaker Nino Burdzhanadze, who took part in the meeting, told reporters that government forces need to take "more resolute" action to disarm and arrest militants on Georgian territory.

The council's deputy secretary, Rusudan Beridze, said that Georgia was trying to find a third country that might be willing to accommodate militants, but so far has found none.

Over the course of the war by Russian forces against Chechen separtists, approaching its fourth year, Georgia has repeatedly accused Russian planes of violating its airspace to go after militants in the soaring Caucausus Mountains that straddle Russia and Georgia.

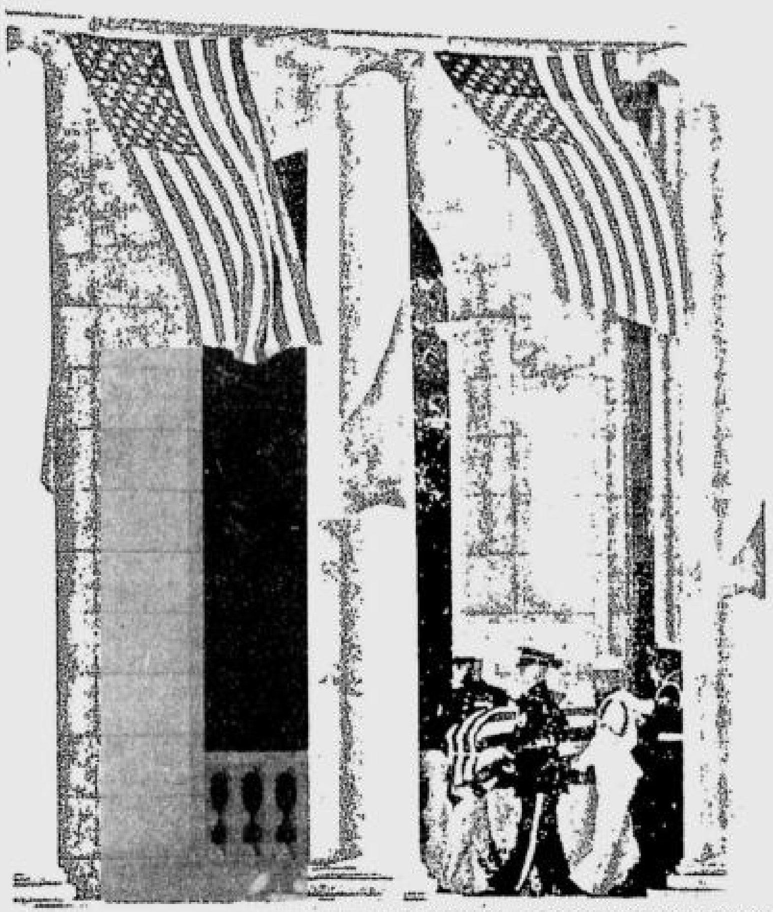
The Kremlin, meanwhile, has called for Georgia to allow Russian troops into the Pankisi Gorge, but Georgian officials have brusquely dismissed the proposals. The massive Russian military presence in Chechnya has not been able to wipe out the rebels there and Russian soldiers are accused of wide human rights violations ranging from lootings to summary executions.

An overt, unilateral Russian attack would threaten to reignite unrest in a region where security is tentative at best and where ethnic tensions are high.

Most Georgians already resent the presence of Russian soldiers on two bases in Georgia—a holdover from the Soviet era—and the presence of Russian peacekeepers in Abkhazia and South Ossetia — two regions bordering Russia that have been de-facto independent since separatists fought Georgian troops to a standstill in the 1990s. *AP*

New York has turned a crucial corner

By Giles Hewitt



A JOINT service honor guard marches through a colonnade with a casket containing the unidentified remains of victims of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon last year after a funeral ceremony Sept. 12 at Arlington National Cemetery, VA. Of the 184 who died in the Pentagon attack, 64 have been buried at Arlington. AFP

NEW YORK—A fresh start beckoned for New York on Thursday after the city turned a critical emotional corner with the first anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks.

An almost palpable sense of relief at having negotiated an emotionally gut-wrenching year was, however, tempered by the challenges of the rebuilding that remains and the knowledge that the threat of terrorism has become a part of daily life.

There was also the daunting prospect of a military conflict with Iraq, President George W. Bush's next target in the US-led global war on terrorism.

"What our enemies have begun, we will finish . . . A milestone is passed, and a mission goes on," Bush said in an address to the nation on Wednesday evening.

The deep sense of grief and loss that has permeated every aspect of life in New York since the attacks on the World Trade Center was, in many ways, an unnatural state of affairs for a city that has always defined itself by its vitality and exuberance.

With the anniversary marked and honoured, the path has now been reopened for New Yorkers to reclaim their identity, albeit tainted by lingering feelings of insecurity.

"The one-year threshold was an extremely significant moment in a process without clear markings, because it is internal, messy and contradictory," said Charles Strozier, a practising psychiatrist and professor at New York University.

"I don't like the word closure—you cannot close a memory like a bank account—but the anniversary has allowed a process of transition for the city and its citizens," Strozier said.

The New York Times struck a similar note on Thursday, recognizing that a corner had been turned even though the trauma of September 11 had not been left behind.

"And so we move on," the Times said in an editorial.

"The fact that we look toward the future . . . does not mean the memories have lost their power. We carry them with us every day." Laura Wickie, a financial journalist who managed to escape from the 52nd floor of the trade center's north tower before it collapsed, said a weight had been lifted with the passing of the anniversary.

"The week leading up to it and the day itself were very difficult. A lot of the anxiety returned," Wickie said.

"But there is a sense of release now that it's over . . . a sense of moving on." One important emotive issue that needs to be resolved swiftly is that of a permanent memorial for the 2,801 people who died in the World Trade Center.

The debate over what form the memorial should take has already become heated and potentially divisive, with New Yorkers shooting down six possibilities drawn up by municipal officials in July.

The issue is focused on what to do with the "Ground Zero" site, which the victims' families view as hallowed ground, while others want a large-scale redevelopment to plug the gaping hole in the city's skyline. *AFP*

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Iraq threatens to attack Israel

DUBAI—An Iraqi minister threatened Israel with attack if it participated in any US-led military action against the regime of President Saddam Hussein, in comments published in an Emirati daily Friday.

"Iraq will deliver a deep blow to Israel that it will not forget if it interferes in the war," Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh told the Al-Khaleej newspaper.

Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner insisted Friday that the Jewish state "is not involved in the US efforts." But he added his government was taking all precautions to deal with any repetition of Iraq's Scud missile attacks during the 1991 Gulf war.

The Iraqi trade minister warned US President George W. Bush against pressing ahead with his threat to the UN General Assembly Thursday to strike Iraq if it does not disarm.

Washington should "study well the history of Iraq before launching a strike on Baghdad," Saleh said.

"Iraq will not capitulate and the Iraqi people are ready to die and sacrifice themselves to defend their nation. *AFP*

Mullah Omar vows return

CAIRO, Egypt—An Arab satellite station carried a statement allegedly from the vanished Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar in which he vows to drive US forces from Afghanistan.

Qatar-based al-Jazeera as well as a prominent Islamic Internet site—both known for obtaining material linked to Islamic militants—carried the statement, which was dated to coincide with the Sept. 11 terror attacks anniversary but first appeared Thursday.

It was impossible to verify the statement's authenticity or how the pan-Arab station or Web site obtained it. Al-Jazeera officials weren't immediately available for comment.

"We told our (Islamic) community . . . that we are not afraid of (President) Bush's and America's threats," the statement said. "We are continuing jihad (holy war) against America and all the invaders . . . We reassure Muslims everywhere that we are abiding by the pledge, and that victory is coming."

Mullah Omar's radical Taliban government was toppled in US-led war on terror following the Sept. 11 attacks. The Taliban had offered sanctuary to Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida forces.

Mullah Omar, Bin Laden and several of their lieutenants disappeared during the fighting in Afghanistan last year and officials in various governments have given conflicting statement on whether they're believed alive or dead.

In the latest such comment, Afghan President Hamid Karzai told ABC television in New York that he believes Omar is alive. *AP*

ABILITIES ENHANCER Lakeya Brown works with fiber optic wire inside the "multisensory room" at Elwyn Baring Street Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The room is part of a program for people with developmental disabilities or mental health problems, stimulating their senses and improving their cognitive abilities utilizing music, light and other sensory stimulation.

GETTY IMAGES

Israel force hits Gaza camps, kills Palestinian, wounds 7

GAZA—An Israeli armored force raided Palestinian refugee camps in the southern Gaza Strip in a sweep for militants on Friday, killing one Palestinian and wounding seven others in a gun battle that followed, witnesses said.

Eight Israeli soldiers were also hurt by fire from residents of Palestinian-ruled Rafah and its Brazil camp called to arms by messages broadcast on mosque loudspeakers, said Israeli military sources.

Palestinian witnesses said an Israeli helicopter fired at least one missile at a ground target as up to 50 tanks and armored personnel carriers rolled into the two districts and troops went house-to-house in searches. Families fled for refuge away from the fighting, witnesses said.

An Israeli army statement said the operation was sparked by "serious recent terrorist attacks on troops," and that forces withdrew after arresting several suspected militants.

Troops also blew up six foundries used by the Hamas militant group to manufacture Qassam rockets, the statement said.

Palestinian witnesses could confirm two metal foundries, a mechanic's garage and paint workshop were destroyed, and said Israeli armour had also caused serious damage to some 20 homes.

In Rafah, troops ransacked the offices of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement before leaving, witnesses said.

A hospital source said a Palestinian man was killed by shrapnel from a tank shell and seven others were wounded, two seriously. The Israeli military sources said eight soldiers were hurt by Palestinian gun, rocket and grenade attacks.

Rafah has been a flash point of violence between Palestinian militants and Israeli troops, which patrol a strip of land along the border between the Rafah area and Egypt.

Israel has raided the camp before in what it calls operations to destroy houses used by gunmen as cover to shoot on its forces, or to destroy tunnels used to smuggle weapons.

On Thursday, the army left behind leaflets urging residents not to cooperate with militants, Palestinian witnesses said. The army declined to comment.

"You have to know that anyone who provides assistance or cooperates with these terrorists in any way will pay a dear price," the leaflet said.

"You have to know that the hard conditions you are living under with your families are a result of the terrorist attacks launched from your area of residence," it added.

It was the third major raid into the Gaza Strip this week. *Reuters*

Courts throw out Bhutto's poll appeals

KARACHI—Election tribunals on Friday rejected all three appeals by Pakistan's former prime minister Benazir Bhutto against decisions barring her from taking part in October 10 elections.

A two-judge tribunal at the Sindh province high court rejected appeals lodged against the decision by election officials in her home town of Larkana and nearby Ratto Dero.

A separate tribunal later rejected her third and final appeal—over a seat reserved for women in Karachi, Bhutto's lawyer Farooq Naik told Reuters.

The rejection of all three appeals effectively ends her chances of standing in the elections, although Benazir's lawyers have challenged her criminal conviction and a law barring convicted persons from contesting elections in the Sindh high court, where a hearing is scheduled for Sept. 17.

Benazir's three nominations to stand in the October 10 elections being staged by the military government were rejected early this month on the grounds of a July conviction for failing to answer corruption charges. She has lived in self-imposed exile in Britain and Dubai for more than three years.

The rulings were greeted with shouts of "shame, shame" from Benazir supporters in the Sindh high court, initiated by her lawyer Anwar Ahmed Yousf Zai. The judge immediately ordered his arrest for contempt.

Hundreds of her supporters were gathered inside and outside the court and more than 40 were detained before and after the announcements.

Benazir has been struggling to stage a political comeback in the face of a series of barriers put up by President General Pervez Musharraf, who has threatened her with arrest if she tries to return to Pakistan.

Friday's announcements came a day after a special Accountability Court sentenced her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari to seven years' imprisonment with hard labor for corruption and abuse of power. *Reuters*

Singaporeans agog over slimming gizmos

SINGAPORE—The latest weight-loss schemes in body-obsessed Singapore feature "Get-Slim" slippers and magnetic rings that supposedly stimulate the metabolism.

Experts scoff at claims that the products work, but two local companies say they're scoring with these latest offerings.

Peter Dorney, spokesman for Singapore-based distributor Headline Marketing, said his company sold 200 pairs of "Get-Slim-Slippers" since June at 69.90 Singapore dollars ($ 39.70) a pair.

"It's reflexology without the pain," Dorney said. "The slippers make you go to the loo a lot, as they stimulate the digestive system."

The China-made slippers are shorter than the foot and provide no support for the heel, with the effect of seeming much too small. Dorney says results show in three weeks, with the weight lost depending "on how fat you are."

Distributors of the "Slimming and Health Magnetic Ring" claim it will slim down chubby cheeks if worn on the thumb and flabby stomachs if worn on the middle finger.

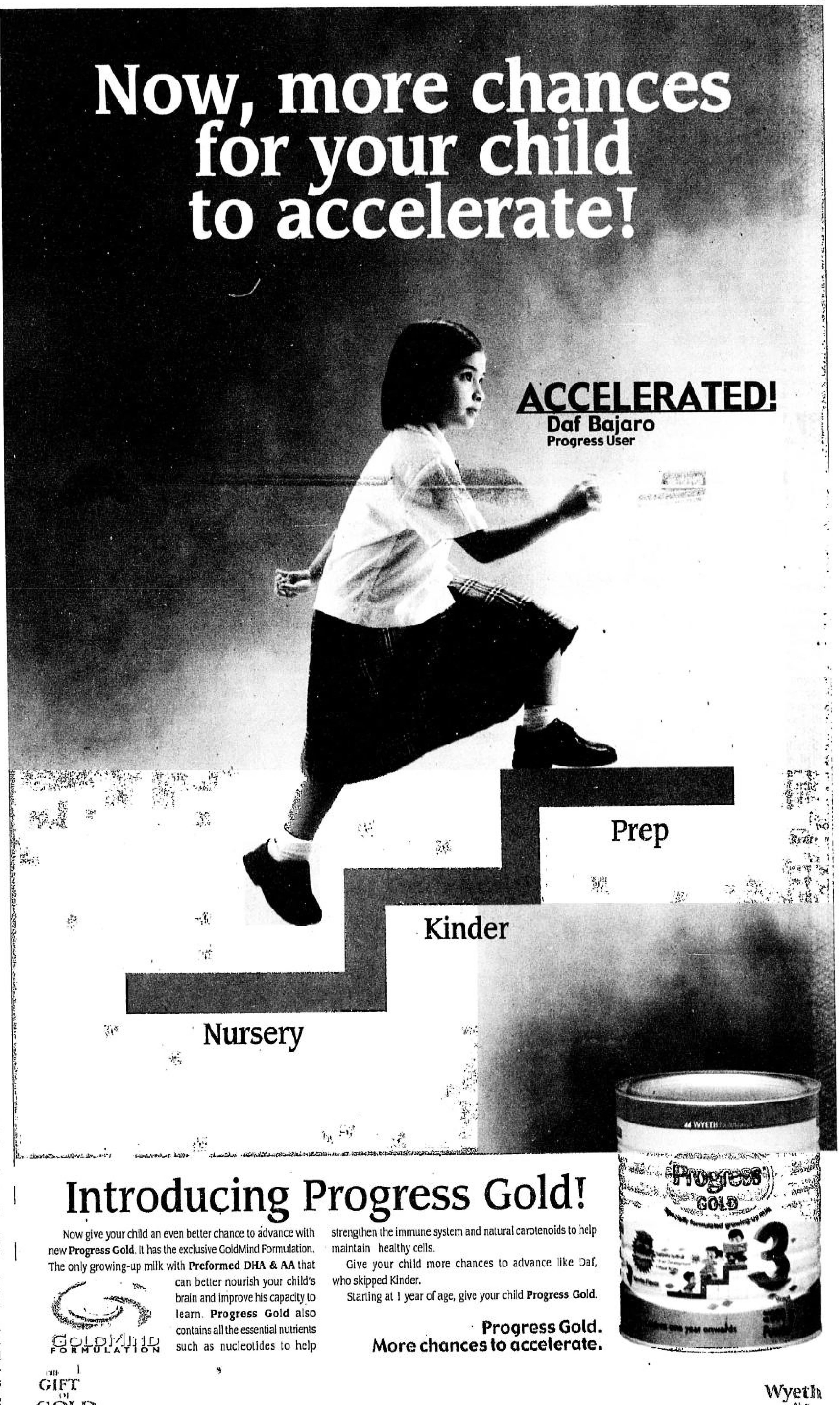
Letterman Marketing has sold 600 rings since July at 29 Singapore dollars ($ 16.50) each, spokeswoman Sarah Ng said.

Dr. Tey Beng Hea, a weight management specialist, was dismissive about the products.

"There's no way that a magnet can stimulate metabolism. There's no scientific proof so we can't verify the claims of these products," he said.

Nor has Singapore's health authority verified the claims, and spokeswoman Anita Sim said the public should be "cautious" when purchasing such products.

Slimming remedies took center stage recently when six women in Asia died, including one in Singapore, and scores of others fell ill after allegedly taking a popular China-made diet pill, Slim 10. Health officials pulled the product from shelves here in April, after discovering it contained the banned substance fenfluramine. *AP*



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Firm seeks permit to market Bt-corn

DAVAO CITY—The pioneering company in experiments on genetically modified crops in the country has asked the Science and Technology Review Panel (STRP) to approve its plan to market Bt-corn next year.

The STRP is composed of about 40 independent scientists working with the government to regulate the sale of genetically modified products in the country.

Dr. Rhodora Aldemita, chief of the Science Research at the Philippine Rice Research Institute, said that Monsanto Philippines has passed its request for approval before the STRP secretariat on Sept. 2.

"This will then be reviewed by the panel within 30 days of the application (to see) if they have complied (with) all the requirements," Aldemita, a member of the STRP, said.

She said Monsanto's request would have to pass the rules set by the Department of Agriculture's Administrative Order No. 8, which regulates "the importation and release into the environment of plants and plant products derived from the use of modern technology."

Bt-corn is genetically modified to resist the attack of corn borers.

Aldemita said the STRP would decide in 90 days whether or not to approve Monsanto's plan.

She said the Bureau of Plant and Industry, the Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards and the Bureau of Animal Industry, would also participate in the assessment of the application.

Aldemita said the basic requirement for the approval of the permit for the commercialization of Bt-corn would be the risk assessment, to be issued by the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The risk assessment includes transparency in the conduct of tests and the risk to the environment or health.

Soccoro Requiza, secretary of Konsumo Dabaw, said they could never stop the government from releasing genetically modified crops into the environment especially with the issuance of DA Order No. 8.

"The very least that we ask from the government is to label the genetically modified products to inform the consumers," she said.

Requiza said the Consumer Protection Law mandates the labeling of the products so consumers would have access to correct information before making their choices.

She also said they would continue their campaign to educate the farmers and the consumers about the implications of biotechnology.

The US has approved for planting, food and feeds at least nine types of Bt-corn developed by six firms.

Other countries like Argentina, Australia, Canada, Japan, Netherlands, Switzerland and UK also approved one or two types of Bt-corn for commercialization.

Among the leading developers of Bt-corn are Syngenta Seeds Inc.; Aventis; Monsanto Co.; Pioneer Hi-Bred International; Mycogen and Dekalb Genetics Corp. ***Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ROUNDUP

Killer gets 40 years

ROXAS, Isabela—A judge has sentenced a man to 40 years in prison for killing two men inside a restaurant here in 1999. Judge Bonifacio Ong of the regional trial court here found Leoncio Navalta Jr. alias Butog guilty beyond reasonable doubt of double homicide for killing Artemio Guillermo and his brother-in-law Eustaquio Sera Navalta. Ong also ordered Navalta to pay the victims' families P100,000 for moral damages. Court records showed Navalta attacked and shot the victims with a .45 cal. pistol. The court rejected Navalta's alibi that he was in a drinking party with a town councilor in Mallig town, a few kilometers from the crime scene, when the attack happened. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Defensor backed

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Officials and residents of Tarlac threw their support behind new Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Benjamin Defensor, an adopted son of Tarlac. They said Defensor, whose wife Meg Soliman is a Tarlaqueña, also deserves an extended term. "I know Benjie (Defensor) to be a very competent, forthright and focused military professional," Tarlac Gov. Jose Yap said. He and Defensor worked together in the House defense committee when Yap was a congressman. According to Tarlac City Mayor Genaro Mendoza, Defensor initiated many civic projects in the province such as medical and dental missions. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Pulilan couple slain

PULILAN, Bulacan—A couple was shot and killed by four heavily armed men who barged into their house in Barangay Tenejeros here Sunday night. The couple, identified as Benjamin and Erlinda Santos, both 46, were watching TV in their living room when the suspects arrived and fired at them, police said. They died while being taken by relatives to a local hospital. Police said the victims' three children hid in their rooms during the attack. Erlinda had just arrived in the country after working in Hong Kong. Investigators are looking into reports that one of the victims had a huge debt with an acquaintance, who could have hired the attackers. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Anti-crime action

BAGUIO CITY—Instead of presenting criminals to the public, Malacañang should highlight court convictions to discourage them from committing crimes, a judge here said. "The best way to discourage criminals from committing crimes is to tell them the consequences of their actions," Judge Fernando Vil Pamintuan said in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's practice of parading crime suspects to the public. Ms Macapagal's action might have impressed on the criminals the seriousness of her anti-crime campaign but there are rules to follow in presenting suspects, Pamintuan said. There should be a presumption of innocence of suspects, he said. ***Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Girl drowns

SORSOGON CITY—The corpse of an unidentified girl about 3-4 years old was recovered on Monday in seas off Barangay San Rafael in Donsol, Sorsogon, police said. The victim was believed to have drowned somewhere in Burias Island of Masbate and adjacent Sorsogon towns and was carried away by strong currents. Reynaldo Cadag, San Rafael barangay chair, brought the decomposing corpse to the Donsol police station. The victim will be buried at the Donsol Cemetery after a medical exam. ***Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

DENNIS SABANGAN

FILIPINO
The fate of Michelle Sakaluran, 24, of Zamboanga City, may as well represent the plight of hundreds of Filipinos deported from Sabah by Malaysian authorities. Michelle was put behind bars in Tawau, Malaysia and during detention, had manifested signs of derangement.

Bishop asks faithful to join protests vs PPA

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Opposition to the purchased power adjustment (PPA) continues to snowball as Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo urged Ilonggos to join protest actions against the controversial charge.

In a two-page pastoral letter dated Sept. 6, Lagdameo called on the clergy and the Catholic faithful to join an ecumenical prayer rally on Sept. 20 at the Iloilo Rotary Amphitheater. The letter was read in masses last Sunday in the parishes of the Archdiocese.

Lagdameo also asked the parish priests and heads and superiors of Catholic schools and communities to send delegations to a rally that will be simultaneously held in other dioceses on Panay Island.

He said the rally is necessary "so that this concern will not be skirted and side-stepped, but fully faced."

"We must be involved because the worst brownout we can experience is not the electrical brownout but the brownout of our souls and hearts that lie in the darkness of apathy and indifference," Lagdameo said.

The protest actions will also be spearheaded by the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power of Iloilo).

In a meeting at the session hall of the Iloilo provincial capitol on Thursday, local officials pledged their support to the prayer rally.

Among those who attended the meeting were provincial board members Henry Anotado and Victorino Salcedo II, four mayors, three vice mayors and eight members of the Sangguniang Bayan from 10 municipalities of the province. Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas conveyed his support through his executive assistant Manuel Mejorada.

In his pastoral letter, Lagdameo called the PPA a "folly not so easily discernible."

He said people spend money that could have gone to food and other basic needs just to pay the PPA.

Cops tapped to teach in mining area

DAVAO CITY—By next week, some of the police officers sent to secure Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley would set aside their firearms and would instead carry chalks, erasers and lesson plans.

Chief Supt. Isidro Lapena, Southern Mindanao police director, said he was only waiting for the formalization of an agreement with the Department of Education (DepEd) in the region so that police officers with education degrees could finally help in educating the children of miners in the controversial gold-rush area.

Lapena said he came up with the idea after his visit to Mt. Diwata, where he saw a serious lack of teachers.

Based on figures provided by the DepEd office here, the public school in the gold-rush area needs at least 21 additional teachers.

Currently, there are only 18 teachers there, including the school head Alex Antonio, who has to take students to at least fill the vacuum.

Severina Tagubase, DepEd-11 education program specialist II, said there are 1,320 enrolled pupils at the Mt. Diwata Elementary School.

Tagubase said that on average, a teacher would handle about 80 pupils. Ideally, a class should only have 40 pupils.

Diamar Kadon, DepEd regional director, said he recognized the problems hounding the school but plans to hire new teachers but have been hampered by lack of budget.

Kadon said he was overjoyed at Lapena's plan.

"I personally admire him for such plan. I am looking forward to partnering with the police to educate our poor children," he said.

On Wednesday afternoon, the two top officials talked over the phone to discuss the project. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Pinatubo eruption forgotten in development plans

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BACOLOR, Pampanga—Three Central Luzon provinces hardest hit by the 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo and its consequent lahar flows have yet to put in the risks of future volcanic blasts in their long-term development plans, the government's chief volcanologist said on Thursday.

"There seemed to be no consideration for future eruptions," said Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, chief of the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), on the current trend in the rehabilitation of villages in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

The effects of the disaster—the displacement of almost a million residents, the alteration of topography, the loss of farming and fishing grounds and worsening floods—were in themselves immense concerns to hurdle in terms of resources, Punongbayan noted.

"The interventions are answers to the problems now," he said.

Lahar-confining dikes, flood-control measures, resettlement and the revival of agricultural areas remained largely the responses to the continuing impact of the disaster, one of the world's biggest during the 20th century.

Until 1999, the government had spent P31.8 billion for Mt. Pinatubo-related projects, many of which were saddled with controversies, a Senate oversight committee report showed.

But in Bacolor, for instance, the local government and the residents have yet to put in place plans that will protect the developments they have begun in the town.

The town lies only 25 km south of Mt. Pinatubo. Lahar snakes through the Pasig-Potrero River and cuts through several channels in Bacolor.

Swamped by lahar in 1991 and affected by almost five-meter high lahar rampages in 1995, Bacolor rose to its feet in 1996 through the insistence of at least 100 families who chose to remain in the town.

Although government planners designated the town to be the catchment of lahar, its population in four villages not enclosed by the FVR Megadike, a lahar containing structure, grew in the succeeding years.

At the risks of their lives, residents have returned permanently or come during dry months to farm in what were once thickly sand-covered lands.

Families built their homes on high stilts, enough to let a truck pass underneath them.

Even as the government ringed the town with dikes—the FVR Megadike in the north, upper west and east sides; the San Fernando-Sto. Tomas-Minalin tail dike in the south and two more dikes in the lower west and east sides—more residents were returning.

About 2,000 families have permanently resettled in Bacolor, representing 15 percent of the more than 180,000 residents before 1991. The rest are scattered in eight government resettlement sites in Pampanga but come home during holidays and elections.

"We are very strong-willed," said Bacolor Mayor Romeo Dungca.

However, he noted that the engineering interventions of the government, through the Department of Public Works and Highways, lacked local consultations.

Many residents believed that the town was sacrificed to save the business and commercial capital city of San Fernando, Dungca said.

Punongbayan said he was impressed with the efforts of residents to come home and revive Bacolor.

"But they should prepare through long-term protective structures. Mt. Pinatubo will erupt in the future and they will be at risk again. There will be new (volcanic) deposits and new lahar. If they do not prepare for that, the same story will happen again," he said.

"(The eruption) could be 10 years, 20 years or 200 years from now. Mt. Pinatubo is quiet now but I'm sure it's going to erupt in the future. As time drags and the population grows, they may tend to forget that they live next to a volcano. If there are protective structures and the future generations are made aware of the past disaster, then they are aware of the threat."

He said the 300 lahar-affected villages in the three provinces should consider in their development plans the future risks of eruptions.

"Problems in the future should be (considered)," he said.

CHILDREN pick up items that could be of value from still fresh lahar in this file picture taken shortly after Mt. Pinatubo's eruption.

FILE PHOTO

3rd anniversary supplement

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MESSAGES

My warmest congratulations to the I-MART Drug and Convenience Store on its Third Anniversary and inauguration of its newest branches inside the ABS-CBN Compound and in Camarin, Kalookan.

I commend you for providing consumers with affordable and easily accessible products. I likewise congratulate you for promoting the health of our people by offering lower priced medicines. This branch expansion shows your dynamism in promoting company growth and in satisfying the demand for your services. I urge you to pursue your mission with greater dedication and professional ethics while upholding consumer welfare.

Drugstores are vital in giving our people better access to medicines that are safe, effective and affordable. A healthy citizenry is essential in our efforts to win the war on poverty. Let us intensify our cooperation in making available lower priced medicines needed by our people especially the underprivileged. Join me in improving our people's quality of life as a hallmark of a strong Republic.

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Our warmest greetings to the enterprising and innovative business leaders behind the I-MART Drug & Convenience Store as you celebrate your 3rd Anniversary of continuing service to the Filipino public.

It is heartening to note that in a short span of three years, I-MART has already established a retail network of over 60 stores all over Metro Manila and nearby provinces while striving to serve the best interest of consumers by offering one of the lowest prices among local convenience stores. Likewise, we are pleased to note that I-MART is among the first to utilize information technology to serve its customers through on-line ordering from its website, and that it has expanded its services to include payment center for utility bills, credit card payments and a delivery hotline. Thus, I-MART 's operations best exemplify trade practices that put the consumer ahead of other considerations through services that assure consumers of getting the best value for their money and the flexibility of wider choices.

We are confident that I-MART would continue to pursue the thrusts of offering only top quality products that comply with government rules and regulations including product standards, providing its clientele with the best quality and value for money that the market could offer, and widening the options available to Filipino consumers. Moreover, we hope that the company would continue to support government efforts in the control, prevention and elimination of unfair, unscrupulous and anomalous trade practices in all shapes and shades. All these are imperative in an increasingly competitive borderless global economy.

To I-MART, our sincere congratulations and best wishes for continuing success.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry

Warm greetings to the officers and staff of I-MART chain of drug and convenience stores on its 3rd Anniversary Celebration.

The role of entrepreneurs like I-MART play in the market contributes significantly to the economic growth and sustainable development of our country . The retail industry becomes more dynamic with the entry of more players in this sector.

The continuing demand for low-priced commodities in our country has created the need for convenience stores like I-MART to provide greater access to quality food and drugs at affordable cost.

The Department of Health supports programs and projects that promote the highest standards of service to the Filipino people. Through our concerted efforts and shared commitment to improve the health of Filipinos, I am confident that we will be able to attain the vision of better quality of life for everyone.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary, Department of Health

On behalf of the Bureau of Food and Drugs I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the I-MART Drug and Convenience Store on its 3rd Year Anniversary.

Your fast growth is a manifestation of your sincere desire to be of better service to our country folks. We wish that your 63 stores will even grow bigger and stronger. May you continue to carry products with Sangkap Pinoy Seal and Iodized salt to address the micronutrient malnutrition problems. Furthermore, we commend your effort to provide drugs that are reasonably priced and state of-the-art services to better serve the nation.

May you continue to support the Bureau's concern of making available to the public, safe, effective, affordable and quality food and drugs.

Once more, congratulations and more power!

Adelisa Cifra Ramos

ADELISA CIFRA-RAMOS, MPH, MPA, CESO IV
Deputy Director & Officer-In-Charge, Bureau of Food and Drugs

From 0 to 63 in 3 years, in terms of stares is a milestone by itself, since these materialized under very difficult economic climates, both local and worldwide. In a short span of 3 years also, I-Mart has grown to become a major force to contend with in the local convenience and drug store industry.

Modesty aside, these were achieved by I-Mart not only through sheer number of stores, but also by our continuously adapting to the highly competitive nature of the business; and by reinventing ourselves, putting innovative ideas to work and constantly refining our pharmacy-cum-convenience store operation. And of course, we would not have achieved these milestones, if not for the continued patronage of our many customers, and the strong support coming from our suppliers.

In celebration of our third anniversary, therefore, we would like to renew our commitment to all our customers, to provide you with the widest range of products, with the best personal service and at the most affordable prices we can offer. For we know this is one way through which we can remain a cut above the rest in this very competitive retail business. And to our business associates, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for all the support you have given us over the years, and we look forward to more fruitful years ahead with you behind us.

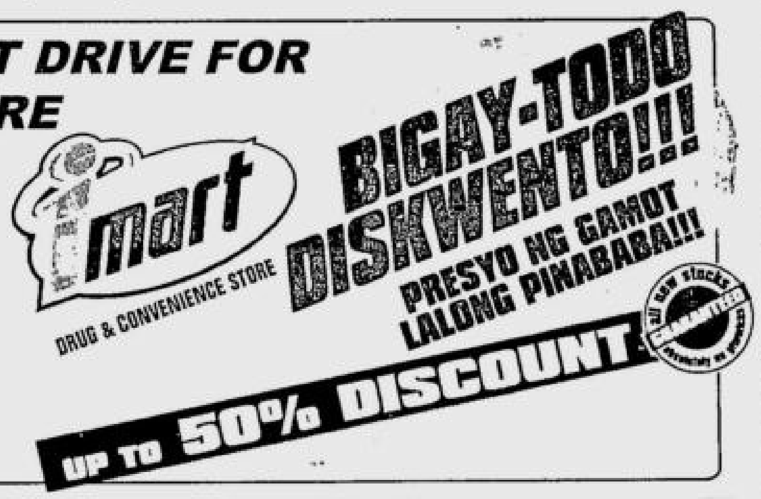
Truly yours,

RAYMOND T. CO
President, I-Mart Corporation

Now on its third successful year, I-Mart shows no signs of stopping its drive to bring convenience to more and more people. Today, I-Mart opens its 63rd store in Camarin, Kalookan, barely a month after opening its 62nd store inside the ABS-CBN compound. Although a relative newcomer, I-Mart has not just survived but thrived because from the very beginning, the idea behind I-Mart has been about Convenience for the Customer. Every choice made, every innovation & improvement, was an answer to the question, "Will this benefit the customer?" This idea of consumer-centric stores has been an instant success, and in the short 3 years, I-Mart has grown from a single store to more than 60 all over the metropolis and nearby provinces, with more store-opening in the works.

I-MART SUPPORTS GOV'T DRIVE FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

Every Filipino deserves access to quality and affordable medicines. In support of the government's drive to bring health to the masses, I-Mart has come up with "Bigay-Todo Diskwento!!!" Avail of big, big discounts of up to 50% on many selected medicines only at I-Mart! This promo runs until December 31, 2002.



I-MART 3RD ANNIVERSARY PROMO A SUCCESS!

Milyon Milyong
TOTAL PAPREMYO
Kay Daling Manalo!

KEEP ON JOINING!
MORE DRAWS,
MORE WINNERS TO COME!

1ST MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS (SEPTEMBER 06, 2002)

1ST PRIZE (Samsung Home Theater Showcase)
MICHAEL PURINO
PACITA 2 SAN PEDRO LAGUNA

2ND PRIZE (San-San Store Showcase)
RAMON D. ONGACO
J. FERRER ST. LA HUERTA PARANAQUE CITY

3RD PRIZE (Compaq Presario 5000)
RICKY C. CORRE
SAN MARTIN ST. GULOD NOVALICHES

CONSOLATION PRIZE WINNERS
(P500 worth of groceries)

AILENE R. DEL ROSARIO
GUDAL CANAL ST. STA. MESA

ALBERTO S. DELA CRUZ
PNCC-SLTD CALAMBA, LAGUNA

ALMA S. MENDIOLA
BALITE ST. LAS PIÑAS CITY

ANNA LIZA P. UMPAR
BLISS BRGY. CANIOGAN PASIG CITY

ANNA MARIE L. MIZUSE
BANCAL, MEYCAUAYAN BULACAN

ANTONIETA O. MABULAC
MANGGAHAN ST, TAGUIG

ARIEL MONTALES
SALUYSOY, MEYCAUAYAN BULACAN

BERNARD C. GOROSPE
DR. J. GABRIEL ST. BACLARAN

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BETTY VIOS
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BRENDA C. ZANTUA
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INQUIRER Visayas

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** *Bureau Chief* **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

Fil-am twins get ready to join US-led war against terrorism

By Alex V. Pal
Dumaguete City

TALK of the Philippines and the first thing that would come to mind for Fil-Am twins Danielle and Don Noble Stackhouse is Dumaguete. Apart from being their mother's hometown, Dumaguete is a place of many happy memories.

DANIELLE and Don Stackhouse. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Danielle and Don were just six months old in 1981 when they visited their grandparents here for the first time. Proud mother Mary Lou, in a letter to this writer, still remembers that moment—"their father carried the twins in matching baby carriers—one in each hand."

That was the start of homecomings for the twins, which their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins would look forward to almost each year.

The first few times were mainly introductions to Filipino food and the beach, but the activities got bolder with each vacation. One summer, their uncle Bong taught Don how to ride a motorbike.

Another time, they went off-roading in a 4x4 truck and also learned steps in ballroom dancing with the help of local dance instructors. In the later part of their high school years, they came over and learned scuba diving.

But now, those homecomings may have to wait a while as the twins, who turned 22 years old on Sept. 2, start exploring the world on their own. They have grown to be soldiers.

After graduating from the top military schools in the United States in the class of 2002, Don and Danielle are preparing for action in the US-led war against terrorism.

Donald, after receiving his diploma from US Vice President Dick Cheney during the graduation rites of the US Naval Academy last May 24 at Annapolis, Maryland, is going through a six-month elite Surface Warfare Basic Officers' Training School in Newport, Rhode Island.

He will then join his ship assignment, the USS Lake Champlain—an Aegis Class Guided Missile Cruiser based in San Diego, California.

Danielle received her diploma from US President George W. Bush during graduation rites on June 1st at the US Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, New York.

She will attend medical school at the Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, Lousiana on a full scholarship.

Leaders

Enlisting his children with the military wasn't on dad Donald's mind when he brought his children up. But being a graduate of the USMA at West Point and a former American Army officer himself, he says he only wanted to expose them to West Point to make sure they knew his friends and classmates.

Donald was working as Far East vice president of Radio Corporation of America based in Manila in the mid-1970s when he met and married Mary Lou Noble. The couple relocated to the United States in the early 1980s.

In an interview published in the News Times in Connecticut, the Fil-Am twins said they very well remember that when they were two years old, their father would make them stand at attention after picking up their toys.

Donald also brought the twins in their baby carriers to football games at West Point and taught them to chant, "Go Army, beat Navy," as soon as they learned to talk.

The competitive spirit grew between the twins, but they continued to get along well with each other, sharing a car and working together.

They were seen as an effective duo that Danielle and Don were voted co-presidents of the High School Executive Student Council in New Fairfield High School in Connecticut in 1997.

"They are leaders," wrote principal Allen Fossbender in his recommendation letter for the twins to their respective military institutions.

"They believe in one's potential to effect change, to make a difference in the world."

Halfway around the world, Don and Danielle continue to make an impact in the lives of their relatives in Dumaguete.

"We're very proud of them," says aunt Alice Noble Reyes, a dentist. "They may be serving in the US military but they still have Filipino values and their nephews and nieces look up to them."

Ten-year-old nephew, Siegfred Reyes, a fourth grade pupil at the Silliman University School of Basic Education, even has his sights on military school. "I want to be a soldier too, like Tito Don."

Silliman University: The gift turns 101

By Alex V. Pal
Dumaguete City

CALL it divine inspiration, but no one can really explain why Dr. Horace Brinsmade Silliman, a philanthropist from Cohoes, New York, turned up at the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States one day to donate a princely sum of $10,000 to establish a school halfway around the world, in a place he had never been to.

After surveying about six other places in the Philippines for two years, and with the persuasion of Negros Oriental Gov. Demetrio Larena and Dumaguete Mayor Meliton Larena, the American missionaries in the Philippines finally chose Dumaguete City two years later as the site for Silliman Institute, an industrial school for boys, which they founded in August 28, 1901.

"There were 15 boys that first morning. The equipment consisted of four desks, about ten feet long, two tables and two chairs. A few McGuffey's Readers, a few geographies, arithmetic and ninth grade grammars. I was president; Mrs. Hibbard was faculty," recalled Dr. David Sutherland Hibbard in a memoir he wrote in 1951.

The Hibbards (now both deceased), who served Silliman for 30 years, started admitting girls in 1912. The Hibbards also prepared the Institute for university status, which Silliman attained in 1938.

One hundred one years since that morning in 1901, Silliman had grown to a campus with about 7,000 students. More than 60 buildings dot the 70-hectare campus. From an industrial school for boys, Silliman has grown to become one of the leading institutions of learning in the Philippines, producing graduates who eventually occupied top positions in government and in private corporations, among them a Philippine President, Carlos P. Garcia.

These graduates are also among Silliman's staunchest supporters and just keeping in touch with about 70,000 alumni worldwide is proving to be a tough job for Alumni Affairs Director Jocelyn Somoza dela Cruz.

THE SILLIMAN University Hall as it stands today. FILE PHOTO

"The alumni keep us updated of their activities and they keep coming back to the University for homecomings during Founders' Day," dela Cruz said.

Low turnout

This year's festivities, however, saw fewer visitors than when the University marked its centennial last year.

"Last year, 78 classmates registered for our reunion, with about ten from abroad. This year, for our 30th anniversary, we registered 42 with no foreign arrivals," said Youman Uymatiao of the Silliman University High School (SUHS) Class of 1972.

The business sector also felt the drop this year. "If last year was 100 percent, this year's economic activity was almost zero," said Uymatiao, who also heads the Hotel, Resort and Restaurant Association in Dumaguete.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas figures confirmed this observation. Paulita Enrile, Dumaguete BSP manager, said total bank deposits in August this year was P10 million less than the same period last year, when Silliman marked its centennial.

Total deposits for August last year was P384,184,000, compared with this year's August figures of P374,501,250. "For a city like Dumaguete, P10 million can certainly make a big difference," Enrile said.

But the University, after experiencing last year's deluge of visitors, had already set lower sights for visitor arrivals this year. "We expected that," university president Agustin Pulido said. "Some might have been thinking that attendance would be more than last year's but I said that is unrealistic."

Somoza was, however, optimistic that the University will see more alumni visits in the next few years. "The Silliman Spirit makes them keep on coming back," she said.

"The Silliman Spirit," explains Leonor M. Briones, chair of the board of trustees and former national treasurer, "which permeates and invigorates all that Silliman and Sillimanians do, is more dazzling than its academic accomplishments. It is a striving for academic excellence and professionalism and imbuing all that we do with Christian values. It is a sense of community and oneness with all who have studied, taught and worked in Silliman."

Among the highlights of this year's Founders' Day celebration was the awarding of the Outstanding Sillimanians, composed of Rev. Vicente A. Espinosa for pastoral ministry, Dr. Russell D. Atonson for community health service, Gabriel P. Atega for business management and Dr. Mardonio Lao for local history.

Creative celebration

"This year, through the efforts of a group headed by Dr. Ceres Pioquinto, we had a very creative celebration," Pulido said.

Another highlight was the groundbreaking of a three-story commercial building at the corner of Hibbard Avenue and Silliman Avenue, which will be leased to concessionaires.

This P20 million building, which is expected to be completed in 2004, will help Silliman enhance its financial position. "This is going to increase scholarships," Pulido said, adding that it is not tuition but the cost to the student that is critical. "The tuition is not as important as how much scholarship we give to the students."

What makes the Silliman brand of education unique? Definitely not academic excellence.

"Academic excellence," says Dr. Everrett Mendoza, an alumnus who is now Silliman's Vice President for Academic Affairs, "is not Silliman's defining quality . . . it is Christian presence that she extends to her children, to her environment and to the country."

"Silliman's academic programs are not unique, not even superior compared to the best schools in the country. But here we strive to make a real Christian presence. This kind of Christian presence came to us a hundred one years ago. From that day on we gather every morning on the same date to renew our commitment to it."

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

Martial law all over again

IS AN armed conflict raging in Cebu? With a few dozen active guerrillas hardly a factor against a battalion of better-trained and fed soldiers and hundreds of policemen, the rebel group perambulating in the wilderness of mid-northern Cebu has become almost a forgotten force.

Sporadic "tactical offensives"—torching buses and heavy equipment of delinquent "taxpayers"—land the rebels in the front page now and then, a one-day wonder that does little to blur what many now consider as their long-running record of futility.

But thanks to Lt. Col. Jonas Sumagaysay, commander of the Army's 78th Infantry Battalion based in Sogod town, interest in the movement has been revived.

"He would make Joma Sison look like an amateur recruiter," wrote Cebu Daily News columnist Ruben Carranza, a former Defense undersecretary.

No, the good colonel didn't defect to the New People's Army. But he greatly boosted its cause by giving the rebels something to cry about and champion—more injustice and human rights violations, which along with poverty have driven countless young men from home to war.

It appeared like Martial rule all over again. Soldiers picked up and detained four disgruntled farmers, kept their families worried sick for days, and adamantly defied a judge's order to produce the suspects. Would the military be cited in contempt of court and punished?

With the media riveted by the unfolding drama, the insurgency problem is suddenly "alive and kicking" in Cebu. That's surely bad news to foreign tourists and investors. But can you blame the media for reporting what they see?

Lt. Col. Sumagaysay's courage, zeal, dedication and talent might be better appreciated elsewhere, like in Basilan where ferocious bandits also know no rules.

* * *

NEWSROOM STIR. There's a quiet, edgy stir in the newsroom. A new editorial system, with a potential to create a new breed of journalists and reinvent the traditional roles of editors, is upon us.

Named GN3, or Tera, by its Italian makers, the system combines, and improves on, the outstanding features of the current programs for word processing, page making and archiving.

Without having to leave his workstation, an editor can have access to all available stories and photos, including those from the wires; track errors and pinpoint their authors; and monitor work flow and progress.

Quick, shortcut keys and easy-to-memorize commands designed for learners make page making easier and less daunting. On deadline, editors can now actually conceptualize, design and electronically format newspaper pages.

In sum, this will further empower the editors, whose conventional tasks are usually limited to checking precision of language, accuracy of facts, coherence and logic, and putting errant reporters to task.

On our visit to the Tera regional office at the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur last month, the versatility of this system first overwhelmed, then impressed and convinced us that management had made the right decision to switch amid fast changing currents of modern technology

I'm happy that this innovation has come in our time and prime; and that we have been privileged to be among the first journalists in this country to put it to good use.

The Inquirer Libre, tabloids Bandera and Tumbok are now being run 100 percent on Tera. Not long from now, our mother publication, the Philippine Daily Inquirer itself, will be too.

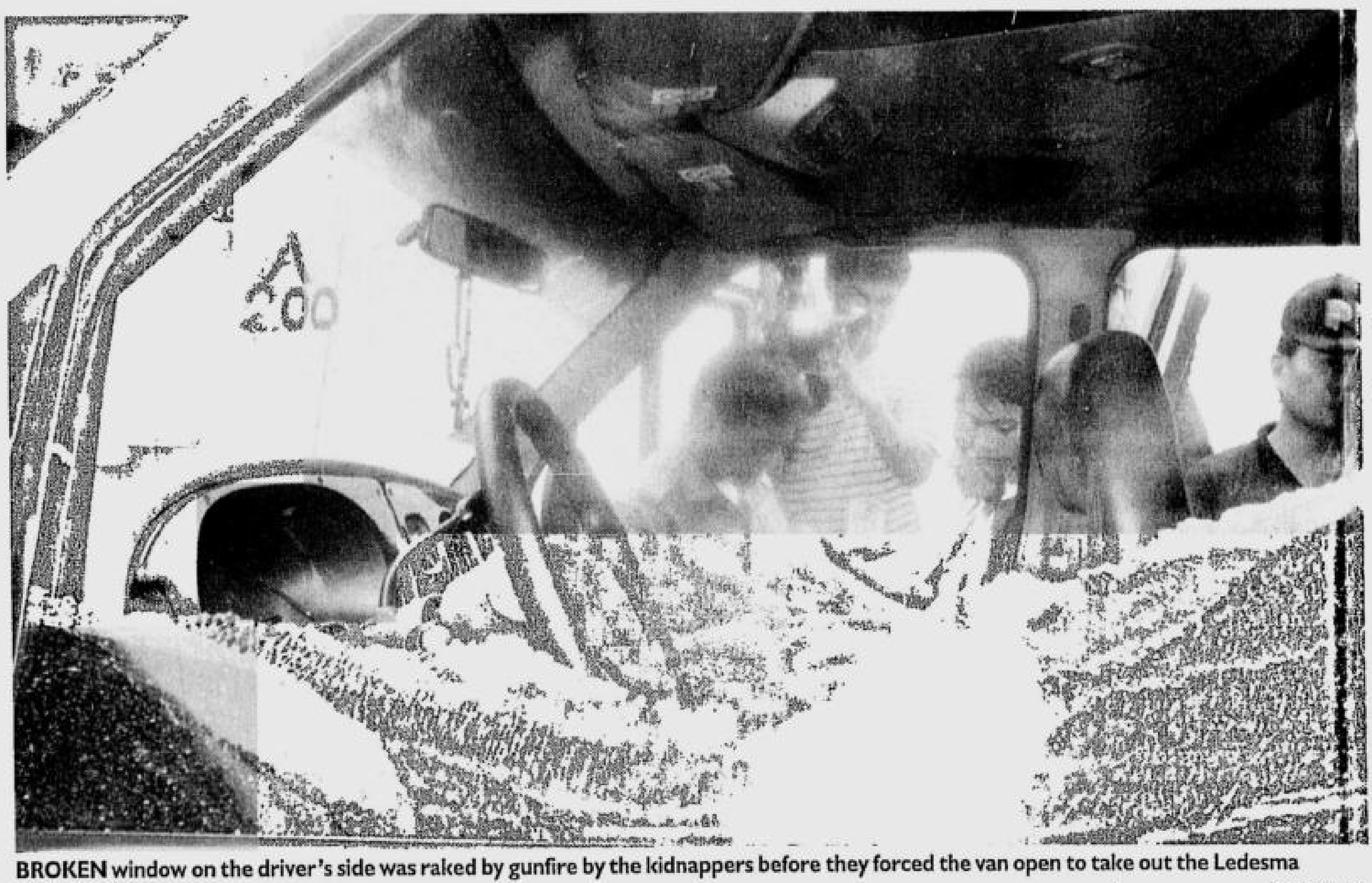
Cebu Daily News is next to follow suit, making this community newspaper the most modern in the country outside Metro Manila.

* * *

MEDIA WEEK. The annual Cebu Press Freedom week unfurls tomorrow with the theme "Keeping our Relevance in the I.T. Age."

Cebuano reporters, editors and broadcasters put their rivalry to rest for one week as they keep alive the fire that has made the local media industry among the most vibrant and dynamic in the country.

Gloria seeks news blackout on kidnap



BROKEN window on the driver's side was raked by gunfire by the kidnappers before they forced the van open to take out the Ledesma children. JOAN BONDOC

THE NANNY, Jennilyn Tesado, breaks down at the San Juan police headquarters as she relates how the kidnapping happened. JOAN BONDOC

THE DRIVER, Randy Barcelona, with cuts and bruises from broken glass relives the terrifying moments when his vehicle was shot up by the kidnappers. JOAN BONDOC

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turned against kidnappers, and predicted the problem would be solved in six months or less.

Observers said the abduction marked a new phase in the kidnapping crisis. Previous victims had been businessmen or members of their families. Families of influential politicians had been spared so far.

Rep. Apolinario Lozada said his fellow congressmen were "affected" by the news.

"This is proof that we haven't totally licked this menace," he said. He said the Ledesma children's kidnapping is now the biggest challenge to the President's anti-crime campaign.

"I hope the anti-crime campaign will prove to be successful by solving this incident right away," Lozada said.

Police operation?

Witnesses thought it was a legitimate police operation, with at least four burly men brandishing high-powered firearms.

The Ledesma children, who live in Pasig City with their maternal grandparents, were abducted at around 7:45 a.m. Together with their nanny Jennilyn Tesado, 25, they were on board a white Ford Mark 3 van (WKV-991) driven by Randy Barcelona, 28, on their way to the Immaculate Conception Academy and Xavier School in San Juan.

When they reached the corner of A. Mabini and P. Burgos streets, an unmarked maroon Isuzu Hi-Lander suddenly blocked their path. At least three men immediately got down from the vehicle and pointed their guns at the Ledesma's van.

"Give us the keys, give us the keys!" the men shouted in Filipino at Barcelona. "What's this? What's this?" the driver resisted. At this point, one of the suspects fired his machine gun at the driver's side, smashing the windows. The other suspects also raked the neighborhood, hitting some houses in the area.

Then one of the suspects, who swung to the other side of the vehicle, opened the door on the passengers' side and forcibly took away the children from a terrified Tesado.

The party then departed onboard the Hi-Lander and a waiting Starex van and escaped towards Wilson Street.

Residents in the area who witnessed the incident told police that they thought the incident was part of a police operation. But when they realized that a kidnapping was in progress, they decided to call the police.

The witnesses described the suspects as big and burly, and as people who carried themselves like policemen.

Investigators recovered from the scene spent shells of 9mm pistols and M16 automatic rifles.

Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan chief of police, told reporters that the abduction might have been planned long ago. "They carried long firearms so this abduction could not have happened by chance."

As of press time, he added that San Juan police was still chasing leads, but declined to elaborate.

Mug shots

Citing procedure, San Juan police are still holding Tesado and Barcelona in custody for further questioning. Investigators showed them a total of 100 mug shots of known members of kidnap groups. Barcelona is also being treated for cuts to his hands, face and body, which he sustained from the broken glass.

It was also learned that Tesado was hired last May while Barcelona started working for Ledesma only last month.

A little after lunch yesterday, members of the San Juan Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) moved into the SM Centerpoint mall in Sta. Mesa after they received a tip that some of the suspects had bought food from a Jollibee branch inside the mall.

But when police proceeded to the area, they found no suspects.

Prayers for safe return

Negros Occidental congressmen yesterday urged the public to pray for the safe return of the children.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra also asked the kidnappers not to harm the children.

"I am appealing to the kidnappers to spare the children from harm because they are innocent victims," he told reporters.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella said the abduction of Julio Carlos, 5, and Christina Julieta, 10, indicated that no one was safe from kidnappers in this country.

"It is a strong message for us especially in Congress to strengthen out laws against kidnapping and hooliganism in the streets,'" he said.

Lozada, a family friend of the Ledesmas, issued an appeal to the kidnappers.

"Spare the kids," he said.

Lozada said the kidnappers have not gotten in touch with the family. "If it is money they are after, I'm sure the family of Jules will assist them not only in terms of money but work," Lozada said.

But he quickly clarified that the government's policy is against paying ransom and that the family would leave the matter to the authorities.

"I don't want to preempt this. I think we should just leave this to the police authorities," Lozada said.

Lozada appealed to the kidnappers to release the two young children, saying they have just been through the tragic death of their mother.

"It's a very sad thing because their mother just passed away and here they are going through this harrowing experience of being snatched by kidnappers," Lozada said.

Lozada (5th district) and his cousins were close friends of the late Marivi Ledesma, the congressman's wife who died from cancer. She and Ledesma (first district) met through Lozada's cousins.

Lozada said the House members were "all affected" by the kidnapping.

In Malacañang, it was apparent that Press Secretary was uncomfortable answering questions related to the kidnapping.

"The President is really pursuing her campaign against kidnapping," he said.

"Perhaps this incident will prod the Philippine National Police and all other law enforcement agencies to intensify the campaign," Bunye also said.

The kidnapping prompted Speaker Jose de Venecia to pledge additional budget for the Philippine National Police to fight drug and kidnapping syndicates.

He said the House will allow additional budget for PNP anti-crime operations and reward system for tipsters.

"We will give the fullest support to (PNP Chief Gen. Hermogenes) Ebdane," the Speaker said. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and AFP*

No news blackout for ABS-CBN

By Leah Salterio and TJ Burgonio

CONTRARY to rumors that the country's largest broadcasting network would impose a news blackout on the Ledesma kidnapping, ABS-CBN fielded its news reporters to cover the story and then ran a cluster of reports in its newscasts last night.

Rep. Jules Ledesma IV is a second cousin of ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez.

ABS-CBN corporate communications director Patricia Daza-Planas told the INQUIRER they were running the story in their newscasts.

"Jules simply requested that no photos of the kids should come out and that we should not divulge any deal about the negotiations," Planas said.

"He (Ledesma) is also appealing to kidnappers to take care of the kids who are now orphaned from their mother."

The kidnapping report was aired on ASB-CBN's early evening newscast, "TV Patrol" and also on the late night newscast, "Headlines."

Ledesma's fiancee, actress Asunta de Rossi, is still in Canada, where she is attending the well-received screening of her film, "Hubog," during the Toronto Film Festival.

Like Chong case

A leading anti-crime advocate asked the media to impose a news blackout on the "live case," just as the media did in the case of Patricia Lopez-Chong. This will ensure the safety of the two young victims, Teresita Ang-See of the Citizens Action Against Crime said yesterday.

"We hope that the media would clamp down on the abduction of the congressman's two children so as not jeopardize the police operation to rescue them," Ang-See said in a phone interview.

She recalled that most media outlets heeded the authorities' appeal not to report the kidnapping of the 4-year-old Chong and her nanny, Winena Jordan, which resulted in their safe rescue in Magallanes, Cavite on Aug. 25.

Police and military killed Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faisal Marohombsar in the same operation.

"We can't say if it's indeed (a kidnap-for-ransom) case. There's no contact yet between the suspects and the congressman's family," she said.

Old foe revives bugging raps vs Ping

From page A1

LACSON

MATILLANO

hours after the National Police Commission (Napolcom) designated Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao to the post. It was PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., a member of the Napolcom, who named Matillano to the CIDG post. Ebdane ordered Lomibao to stay at his post as regional director of Ilocos.

New controversy

The issue had not yet died down when Matillano stirred up controversy anew when he took over the CIDG post at 7 p.m. on Thursday, several hours ahead of the scheduled turnover of command at 2 p.m. yesterday.

But Matillano said the orders for him to assume the post came from PNP Director Virtus Gil, acting chief of the PNP directorial staff.

"Actually the turnover was supposed to be in the afternoon of Thursday, around 3 p.m. I begged off because I had immediate concerns to attend to," Matillano said.

Journalists, however, obtained a memorandum from the Directorate for Personnel and Records Management setting the turnover at 2 p.m. yesterday.

Speculations were rife in Camp Crame yesterday that "jueteng" whistle-blower and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson had raised objections to Matillano's appointment as Ilocos police director.

Police officials, who asked not to be named, said Singson's objections prompted Malacañang to designate Matillano to the CIDG instead.

Matillano shrugged off the speculations.

"There's no truth to that. As far as I know, there was no opposition to my appointment as Region 1 director," he told reporters.

Matillano said President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Ebdane and Gil, issued the order naming him CIDG chief.

"Two nights ago I was informed that Malacañang had issued instructions to the PNP chief that I'm going back to the CIDG as its head. That was the order. As a good soldier I had to abide by it," Matillano said.

Asked why Ebdane issued two appointments for the top CIDG post in less than 24 hours, Gil replied: "Maybe that's the kind of setup that he wanted. I can't question him on that matter."

1998 wiretapping

Gil admitted that politics sometimes influenced the choice of police officials for certain posts.

On the wiretapping case against Lacson, Matillano said it has not progressed since he sought its reopening in 2001.

In May 1998, Matillano, then chief of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission's Task Force Amihan, filed before the Ombudsman charges of illegal wiretapping against Lacson and other officials of the PNP Special Project Alpha. The charges stemmed from a raid led by Matillano on a Camp Crame repository during which he found wiretapping devices, hundreds of firearms, explosives and drugs. Matillano traced the stuff to Lacson. But the Office of the Ombudsman dismissed the charges in October 1998, saying Matillano's raid was not covered by a warrant.

In May 1999, Matillano revived the case following reports of massive wiretapping by PNP men. The Ombudsman dismissed the case, saying Matillano failed to show proof that recordings made by Lacson and his men were not authorized by the persons whose lines had been tapped.

Both Matillano and Lacson are members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

Erap's man . . .

From page A1

of medical and health services.

Dayrit said it was a "sad thing for the profession that issues have been raised on the behavior and integrity of LCP doctors," but said the rule of law must be followed and observed.

He added that he has appointed Dr. Dina Diaz as acting head.

Subject of complaint

In the order, Romulo said Melendres was the subject of a complaint filed by the medical staff of the LCP.

Melendres was accused of procuring a presentation banner without public bidding, falsifying public documents in the hiring of an architectural consultant, violating auditing rules in the drawing of petty cash advances, and the unauthorized implementation of a reorganization plan in the LCP.

The same board recommended his suspension, Romulo noted.

But in a phone interview, Melendres called the charges "petty," especially compared to those against other officials now under investigation.

"Why single me out? There are too many heads of government-owned and controlled corporations earning as much as P10.8 million a year, but who are defying the President's Executive Order No. 20?" he said.

He was referring to the heads of the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System and other GOCCs who were ordered by the President to reduce their allegedly exorbitant salaries.

"They have been defying it for one year now and they have not gotten anything for causing the government to lose millions of pesos," he said.

In his case, he said, he had not done anything so grave as to cause the government to lose millions.

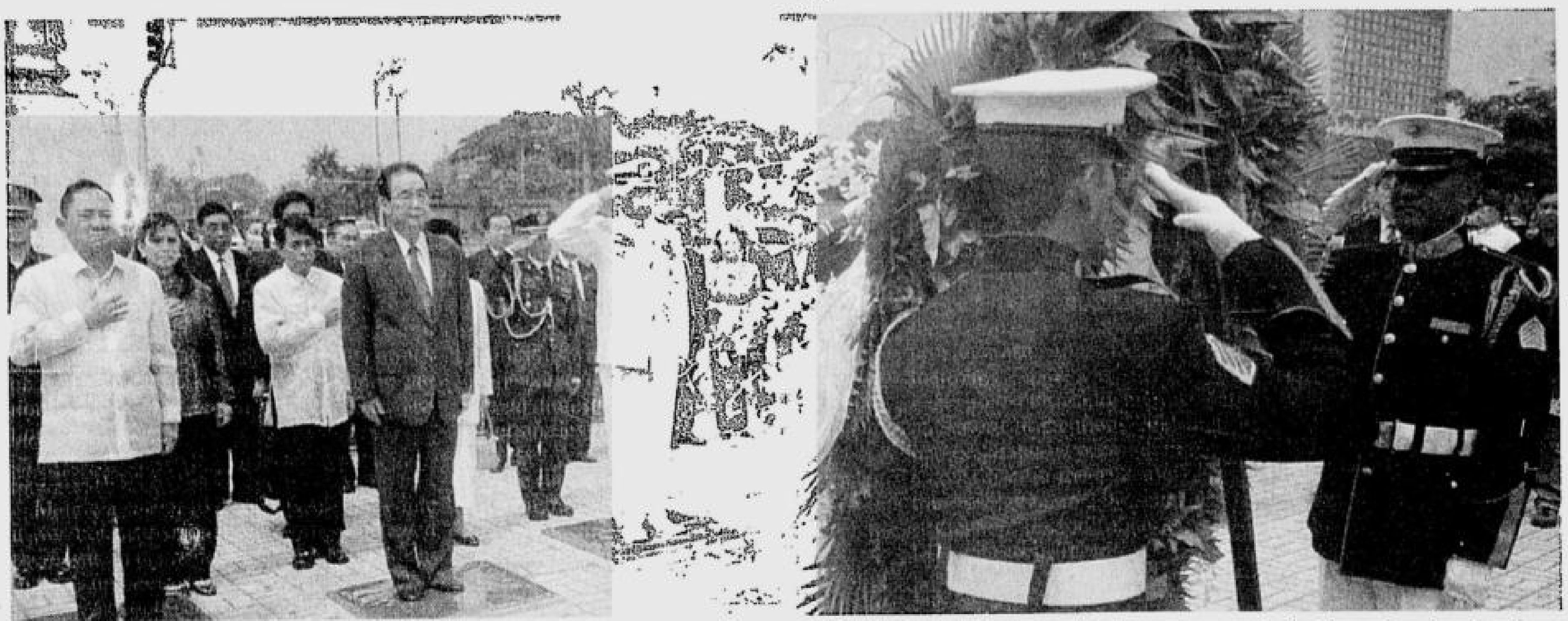
"My charges are very petty and in no way was the government disadvantaged," he emphasized.

Too drastic

Melendres described Malacañang's move to issue an administrative order for his suspension as "too drastic."

He noted that his case did not even pass through Malacañang's legal office for review and was immediately sent to the Office of the Executive Secretary for action.

"There must be somebody very, very influential and very, very high (up) in government who ordered the Executive Secretary to put me on suspension," he said.



CHINA'S second highest official, Li Peng, who's visiting here for four days, honors the country's national hero at the Luneta accompanied by House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Navy Capt. Felipe Manlicmot.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

More poachers fall; China's No. 2 here

From page A1

tion of Section 87 of the Fisheries Code of the Philippines, or poaching.

In Manila, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez announced that the 122 Chinese fishermen caught poaching in Philippine waters early this year would be released soon.

Perez said Chinese Ambassador to Manila Wang Chung Gui told him that the fishermen had agreed to plead guilty to poaching and violation of the Endangered Species Law, and to pay the fines.

"This will pave the way for their release," Perez told reporters in an ambush interview before he left for Cebu City.

Perez had been opposed to the unconditional release of the fishermen even after Foreign Secretary Blas Ople conveyed to the Department of Justice the request of the Chinese Embassy contained in a *note verbale*.

"They must plead guilty, pay the fines and suffer the consequences of their actions," Perez said last week.

But after meeting with justice officials on Thursday, the Chinese envoy finally acceded to the DOJ's position on the matter, Perez said. He said the meeting was arranged by Speaker Jose de Venecia, who had invited Li Peng to visit the country.

Perez also said the six-month imprisonment penalty for illegal possession of endangered species would be "credited" to the fishermen's detention, which was actually more than six months.

According to reports spreading in Palawan, the Navy team and the Wescom initially refused to confirm the apprehension of the Chinese fishermen. The information would reportedly not have reached the media if not for the efforts of a text brigade initiated by the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (Elac) and World Wildlife Fund.

But Wescom head Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza denied that they were trying to suppress news on the apprehension.

"I even made a pronouncement about it to dzRH last night," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The Thursday apprehension brings to 174 the total number of Chinese fishermen caught in Palawan since February. Fourteen minors were released last June.

The Chinese vessels with the fishermen aboard arrived in Puerto Princesa at 4 p.m. yesterday and were inspected by the Wescom, Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Immigration.

The Wescom statement said the vessels had been apprehended a couple of times already.

Apparently unaware of developments in Manila, lawyer Gerthie Mayo-Anda, Elac executive director, said the arrest would affect negotiations for the release of the 122 detained Chinese fishermen.

"This is a chance for the Philippine government to assert its political will and convince Chinese Premier Li Peng that we cannot release the 122 Chinese," she said.

Anda also said the poaching cases should not be compromised because doing so would compromise Philippine sovereignty.

Xu Qing Jiang, the Chinese national who allegedly helped 94 Chinese to fish in the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park last February and interceded for the fast release of the 62 Chinese on board four vessels apprehended last year, was transferred from the Bicutan Jail to the Palawan Provincial Jail yesterday.

Popularly known as Lucio Ong, he was apprehended by the Bureau of Immigration as an overstaying foreign national since 1985. He also has a pending bribery case at the Regional Trial Court, which was filed last February by military personnel guarding the marine park.

Xu Qing Jiang was arraigned yesterday at the Palawan Regional Trial Court.

He had claimed to be a teacher in Beijing, and was found to have studied linguistics (majoring in Filipino) by the House committee on foreign affairs during a formal inquiry on the continuous Chinese poaching incidents in Palawan.

Commitment

Li Peng yesterday vowed his government's commitment to "look after the welfare" of 180,000 Filipinos working in Hong Kong and Macau.

A draft joint press statement said De Venecia and Li had pledged their "staunch support" for the international campaign against terrorism.

China is a member of the United Nations Security Council, which will decide whether to support the US plan to attack Iraq and oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The statement further said Li, China's former prime minister, had expressed his government's "understanding and support of the campaign that the Philippines is waging against terrorism, and expressed its readiness to (consider) modes of cooperation in counter-terrorism and other non-traditional security fields with the Philippines and other Asean countries."

It said De Venecia and Li reaffirmed their commitment to a "peaceful and amicable settlement" of the Spratlys dispute.

The two officials vowed to work for an early acceptance by China and the Asean countries of the proposed Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

De Venecia thanked Li's assurance that China would look after the welfare of 140,000 Filipinos in Hong Kong and 40,000 in Macau.

The Chinese assurance comes on the heels of Malaysia's mass expulsion of Filipinos, a number of whom have died and were reportedly abused in Malaysian detention centers.

"They will not be removed (from Hong Kong and Macau)—that is the commitment of the Chinese government," De Venecia said. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil and Juliet Javellana*

Acting Ombudsman seeks bishops' boost

From page A1

GERVACIO

endorsement of the country's influential Catholic bishops?

Gervacio met with Msgr. Hernando Coronel, spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, last Thursday at the CBCP office in Intramuros, Manila. Coronel refused to confirm the meeting, much less reveal what they discussed, saying it involved "confidential matters."

He did say, however, that the CBCP "as a collegial body ... does not endorse anybody."

"But we listen to anyone who wants to come to the Church," he added.

A check with the logbook of the CBCP security showed that Gervacio came to the CBCP office on board a green L-300 van at 11:25 a.m. and left at 12:30 p.m.

Coronel said it was not unusual for people in and out of government to see CBCP officials for issues affecting them or the country. He said the Church was an "important sector" of society, making it a magnet for those who are seeking support for causes, personal or otherwise.

He speculated that Gervacio may have also "approached other sectors."

Coronel said there were certain attributes the CBCP wanted the next Ombudsman to possess.

"What the Church wants is an ombudsman who is impartial, who has no political or ideological party, and is able to dispense his job in going after corrupt officials and expedite cases," he said.

Coronel merely smiled when asked by reporters whether Gervacio possessed those attributes.

A ranking Palace official had told the INQUIRER last month that Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo had "the inside track" in the race for Ombudsman. Gervacio was appointed acting Ombudsman after Aniano Desierto retired on Aug. 4.

Other front-runners are Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and former Labor secretary Bernardino Abes. The Judicial and Bar Council had submitted an initial list of 22 nominees for the post.

Under the law, the next Ombudsman should be named within 90 days after the post is vacated.

US a threat to world peace . . .

From page A1

Powell said during a talk with the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, a New York-based think tank.

And Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Friday that the US had proven its case that Iraq had breached UN security resolutions and it was now up to the world body to force Iraq to disarm.

"What I believe (Bush) did was very important and that is to make in unmistakable language the point that Iraq has failed to comply with Un Security Council resolutions," Howard said in a Melbourne radio interview.

In an interview with Newsweek magazine Monday, Mandela criticized the United States for acting unilaterally and undermining the United Nations as a forum for settling international disputes. He said hardline US policies aimed to please American oil and arms companies.

"If you look at those matters, you will come to the conclusion that the attitude of the United States of America is a threat to world peace," the 84-year-old African statesman said in the interview, which appears on Newsweek's website.

Asked Thursday if he believed a US attack on Iraq could undermine world peace, the Nobel peace prize laureate said: "Oh most certainly, there is no doubt."

The United Nations imposed sanctions on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait and imposed UN weapons inspectors on the country after the Gulf War. The inspectors left in 1998 ahead of a US-British bombing campaign carried out in the name of forcing greater inspections compliance from Iraq.

Bush and his top aides have accused Iraq of seeking weapons of mass destruction, saying it poses a danger to the Middle East region and the West. Iraq denies the charges.

"It is clearly a decision that is motivated by George W. Bush's desire to please the arms and oil industries in the United States of America," Mandela said in the Newsweek article.

Nearly every country in the world, with the exception of Britain and Israel, has expressed grave misgivings about a preemptive attack on Iraq and want prior approval by the 15-nation UN Security Council of any military action.

Element of racism

Mandela earlier told Newsweek that while it was not his personal view, others believed there was an element of racism behind Washington's unilateral policies.

"Many people say quietly, but they don't have the courage to stand up and say publicly, that when there were white (UN) secretaries-general I didn't find this question of the United States and Britain going out of the United Nations," he said.

"But now that you've had black secretaries-general like . . . Kofi Annan, they do not respect the United Nations. They have contempt for it," Mandela added.

Other world statesmen were more diplomatic toward Bush, welcoming the US president's offer to seek UN endorsement for action against Iraq, but recognized that his speech was just the overture to weeks of crucial diplomatic wrangling to come, over the precise UN warning to be delivered to Baghdad.

Bush "challenged us to (live) up to our responsibilities," Norway's foreign minister, Jan Petersen, said Thursday. But, he said, "we are facing a lot of very, very difficult challenges and choices" in the coming debate over Iraq's defiance of UN resolutions on weapons inspectors.

'Bush was convincing'

Two spokesperson for Iraq's Arab neighbors crystallized those challenges.

"Bush was convincing that the United Nations must move in the framework of implementing Security Council resolutions," said Amr Moussa, secretary general of the Arab League.

But how to move is now the question, noted the foreign minister of the Gulf emirate of Qatar.

"We have to work, all of us, to make an effort with the United Nations to say exactly what they want with Iraq," said Sheik Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabor Al Thani.

Bush made clear what he wants: Saddam Hussein's government in Baghdad to unconditionally allow UN weapons inspectors back onto Iraq's soil, and to allow dismantlement of its capacity for chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

The US chief executive also made clear that although UN support would be a welcome add-on, he did not view it as essential for US action against Iraq.

"My nation will work with the UN Security Council on a new resolution to meet our common challenge," Bush told the UN General Assembly. But if Iraq still blocks the inspectors, "the purposes of the United States should not be doubted. The Security Council resolutions will be enforced," he said.

Speaking for another US ally, the French foreign minister also underlined the major uncertainties remaining after the American's address.

"The choice for us is not between action or inaction but rather knowing how to act," Dominique de Villepin told reporters.

France itself has offered one outline for action: a Security Council resolution giving Iraq three weeks to allow weapons inspectors to return, without condition. If it refuses, then the council would convene again to decide what to do.

The British foreign minister Jack Straw said London "will work closely" with Washington in developing a UN resolution. *AP, Reuters, AFP*

Crisis body wants Pinoys out of Iraq . . .

From page A1

"We can't shove it down their throat," he said.

Even the Philippine chargé d'affaires, Grace Escalante, sought permission to keep her two children and household staff with her in Baghdad.

Lecaros told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that all 121 (not 118, as earlier reported) Filipinos in Iraq had been accounted for.

"Ten of them are, in fact, already in the embassy in Baghdad waiting to be evacuated," he said. The 10 are all dependents of Filipino workers.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the position of the Philippines vis-à-vis the US government's planned attack on Iraq had "not changed."

"We'll try to seek a solution to this conflict through peaceful and diplomatic means," he said.

But earlier, the Macapagal administration offered the US government use of Philippine air space in military operations against the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein even without a formal request. The move drew criticism from various sectors.

Yesterday, Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin urged the administration to reconsider its support for the planned US attack.

"I am calling on our government to exert all efforts, through the proper channels, to manifest to the US and to the entire world that the Filipino people are not supportive of this war, or any war of aggression, for that matter," Salapuddin said in a statement he issued during a press briefing at the House.

He also called on the United States to back down from its plan to wage war against Iraq, and pointed out that it was the US government that provided arms to that country in the first place.

He said that Saddam was "partly an American creation," and that the United States supported Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s "to avenge the hostage-taking by some Iranian students of the staff members of the US Embassy in Tehran."

Can't force them

Bunye admitted that the administration could not force all Filipinos in Iraq to leave.

"That's really up to them," he said of those who had chosen to stay and take part in the evacuation plans in their workplaces. "If they don't want to leave, we can't force them especially if they have other evacuation arrangements."

Bunye said overseas Filipino workers in Iraq numbered less than 20. He said the rest were working for the Philippine Embassy, the United Nations and related agencies.

"Our countrymen are not in a hurry as of this time to leave Baghdad," he said. "That's their call. Even our chargé d'affaires is willing to have her children stay with her. I suppose that's their choice."

Bunye said Cimatu met with the President in Malacañang yesterday afternoon.

He said Cimatu, who had just retired as Armed Forces chief of staff, would regularly apprise the President of the situation in the Middle East "that will be the basis of any further action of the government."

Ms Macapagal appointed Cimatu to supervise the immediate evacuation of Filipinos in Iraq and, in case war breaks out, that of some P1.2 million others in the Middle East.

He is to also oversee the government's response to all consequences of such a war, including the impact on the Philippines' oil supply.

Bunye defended Cimatu's appointment, which had been criticized as a duplication of the DFA's job.

"The appointment of Cimatu, which was even welcomed by (Foreign) Secretary (Blas) Ople, is deemed appropriate," Bunye said. "And I think all the parties agree that his experience, especially in logistics, will be very welcome in this kind of operation."

Just a briefing

US deputy chief of mission Joseph Musoneli yesterday met with top DFA officials in what Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said was "just a briefing" on US President George W. Bush's demand for the UN to compel Iraq to disarm.

Ebdalin said in a phone interview that Musoneli made no formal request for Philippine support during the meeting. But he said the meeting could be "in preparation" for such a request should Bush's demand meet rough sailing in the United Nations.

In an address to the UN General Assembly on Thursday, Bush gave the world body a final chance to confront the "grave and gathering danger" supposedly posed by Iraq, and warned that US "action will be unavoidable" otherwise.

He told the delegates they must end Saddam's "decade of defiance" toward UN resolutions aimed at stripping him of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, or become irrelevant to world affairs.

But Representative Salapuddin wondered why the United States was singling out Iraq in its war against terrorism when, together with the United Kingdom, it was turning a blind eye to Israel's conflict with Palestinians as well as the struggle of the people of Chechnya against Russia.

"I cannot help but think that this call to war against Iraq was made to divert world attention from the bankruptcy of Corporate America," he said, and expressed the belief that Iraq was "being made a scapegoat for the failures of American business" including such corporations as Enron, which ended up bankrupt because of deceptive accounting practices.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran condemned Bush for trying to convince UN members to support US action against Iraq.

"The US president has gone out of control," Beltran said, adding that if the United States wanted to seek justice for the victims of Saddam, it should support the Rome Statute that would create the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Beltran said the US government had been opposing the creation of the ICC because "Bush wants to be jury, judge and executioner by his lonesome, and he is no different from a dictator."

The party-list representative also urged Ms Macapagal not to support Bush's call for war against Iraq, and called on the Catholic Church and other churches to convince her to retract her statements of support for US war plans.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Bush's ultimatum to the United Nations could undermine the effectiveness of the world body.

"US President Bush's decision to adopt this 'Smart Bomb Diplomacy' even over the ambivalent stand of the US Congress and the differing opinion of the American people indicates that world support for this policy will be very difficult for (him) to secure," Biazon said.

The senator pointed out that the United Nations had been mainly responsible for world peace. *With reports from Christine Avendaño, Cynthia D. Balana and AFP*

Games construction on target

ATHENS, Greece—Premier Costas Simitis on Thursday pledged his government will meet construction deadlines for all Olympic sports venues, where many delays had caused international concern about their timely delivery for the 2004 Games. *AP*

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

FOUR DIGIT
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(In exact order)

SUERTRES
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MEGALOTTO 6/45
1 7 8 19 22 25

No problem with visas, says POC

By Roy Luarca

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee will see to it that everybody who deserves to be in the Asian Games will be duly accredited.

Boying Santos, POC project director in-charge of accreditation, made the assurance yesterday, saying they are coordinating with the Busan Asian Games Organizing Committee (Bagoc) regarding the facilitation of the remaining accreditation papers of Philippine delegation members to the Asian Games.

"Bagoc told us that they encountered problems with regards to photo mix-ups and non-appearance of names owing to the huge number of people seeking accreditation," said Santos. "They've corrected these mistakes, however, and in fact less than 20 Filipino participants still lack Asian Games ID which is equivalent to a visa."

But "when worse comes to worst," Santos said the POC is coordinating with the Korean embassy regarding the application for visas of the Filipino participants in Manila and then getting their accreditation in Busan.

The Philippine delegation to the quadrennial meet slated Sept. 29-Oct. 14 will be composed of 218 athletes, 109 officials, support personnel, cheerleaders and media members.

At the latest count, 6,000 reporters have applied for accreditation to the meet, which is expected to draw more than 11,000 participants from 43 countries.

Kidney trouble sidelines Alonzo

MIAMI—Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning will be sidelined indefinitely after his kidney condition deteriorated, the team announced Thursday.

In a brief statement, the Heat said that recent tests show that Mourning's body chemistry has "fallen below what his doctors feel is an acceptable level to play basketball." No timetable has been set for his return. Diagnosed with focal glomerulosclerosis, Mourning missed all but 13 games during the 2000-01 season.

The ailment is similar to that which shortened the career of former San Antonio Spurs forward Sean Elliott, who underwent a transplant in August 1999.

With the disease in remission and his condition bolstered by medication, the 32-year-old Mourning missed just seven games last season and made his seventh All-Star Game appearance.

While he averaged 15.7 points and 8.4 rebounds, the Heat finished sixth in the seven-team Atlantic Division at 36-46 and missed the playoffs for the first time since 1995.

Twice the NBA Defensive Player of the Year, Mourning was selected by the Charlotte Hornets with the second overall pick in the 1992 draft after starring at Georgetown.

Mourning has career averages of 20.3 points, 9.8 rebounds and 3.0 blocks in 622 games. *Reuters*

SOLID PARTNERSHIP

Selecta to sponsor All-Filipino

By Roy Luarca

SELECTA'S partnership with the PBA will go beyond its sponsorship of the Philippine team's preparation and participation in the Busan Asian Games. It will extend to the next conference to be known as the Selecta PBA All-Filipino.

Elmer Yanga, senior vice president of RFM Corporation, yesterday confirmed the sponsorship agreement, which is parallel in terms and scope to that of the ongoing Samsung PBA Commissioner's Cup.

The Selecta PBA All-Filipino is slated to start on Oct. 20, a week after the Asiad competition ends in South Korea.

Yanga, one of the candidates to succeed PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino who is retiring in December, added that Selecta is also likely to sponsor the All-Filipino ending text guessing game, known as the Hapee ending in the Commissioner's Cup.

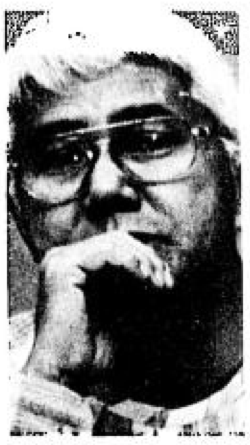
Selecta, maker of dairy products, has taken an active role in the formation of the PBA-Philippine team to the Busan Asian Games. It sponsored one of the two training teams in the First Conference and then the Selecta-RP team in the Second Conference (Commissioner's Cup).

As part of the Selecta-RP team buildup, RFM Corporation sent the Nationals to Italy for a series of tune-up games and contributed in the Melbourne Tigers' exhibition games against the Nationals in Manila recently. Selecta will also play a part in the Nationals' two-game scrimmage with the Qatar team on Sept. 22 and 23 before they leave for Busan on Sept. 25.

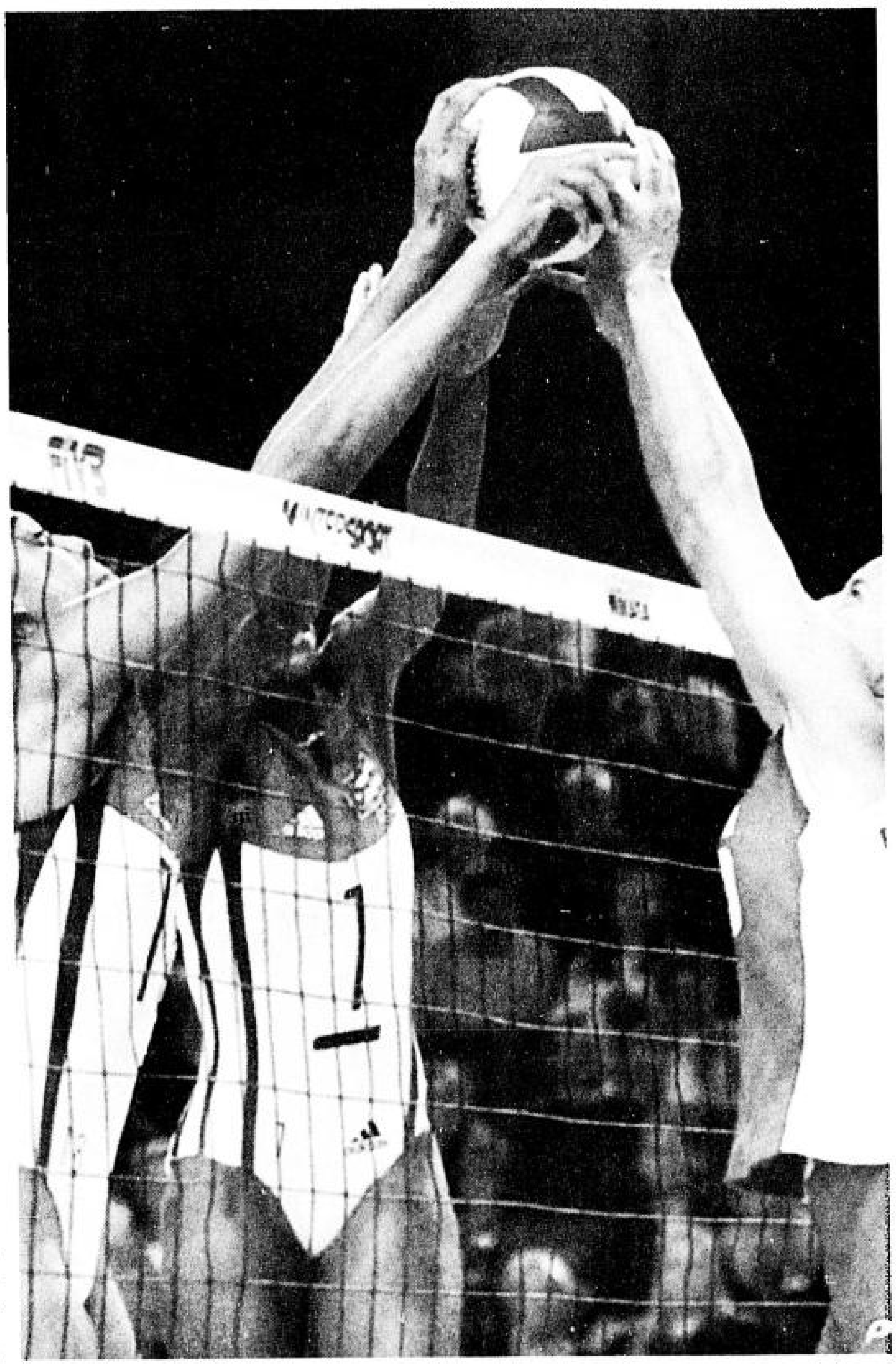
"Our president and CEO (Jose Concepcion III) has always believed in the capability of the national team to bring honors to the country," said Yanga. "It's a commitment."

Yanga sits as the team manager of the Nationals in the PBA, but will relinquish the post to Commissioner Bernardino in Busan.

Other leading contenders for Bernardino's post are PBA executive director Sonny Barrios and former Shell executive Rey Gamboa.



YANGA



CUBA'S Zoila Barros Fernandez (left) and Yoslan Muñoz Garcia (center) block Bulgaria's Antonina Zetova (right) during their match at the Women's Volleyball Championships in Bremen. AFP

Dimaporos vow support to Nat'ls for Busan Asiad

By Marc Anthony Reyes

REP. Bobby Dimaporo and Lanao de Norte Gov. Imelda Dimaporo, hosts of next year's Palarong Pambansa, vowed to throw their support to Team Philippines in the 14th Asian Games by flying to Busan late this month.

The Dimaporos, who have been anxious to stage the Palaro in their province for the past several years, said they will also try to learn organizational know-how on how to stage multi-sport events.

"The Philippine team needs all the support it can get so we will be there to help keep the Filipinos' fighting spirit alive," said the congressman, whose province built a spanking P500 million Mindanao Civic and Sports Center for the Palaro staging.

Gov. Dimaporo, who participated in the Asian Games torch relay which recently passed through the region on its way to Manila, said they will be in Busan as cheerers of the Philippine team and not as part of the delegation.

This early, they already announced innovations in staging the Palaro, which they promised to be the "best Palaro ever."

Instead of being billeted in hotels, she said the Palaro guests from Manila will be housed in a ship docked in the port of Tubod where they will be ferried to and from the competition venue.

REP. DIMAPORO

The governor also promised to provide a calf and three sacks of rice per delegation to make sure the students and athletes are fed well for the tournament.

Meanwhile, the torch relay, a project to promote awareness of the country's Asiad campaign especially in the provinces, is expected to reach Ormoc from Cebu City today.

The torch's other half was carried from Ilocos Norte to Vigan by Rep. Imee Marcos and Gov. Bongbong Marcos.

The relay will culminate in a grand send-off for Busan-bound athletes on Sept. 22 at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park.

The national athletes are also expected to meet President Arroyo before they depart for Busan, according to Philippine Sports Commission officials.

They were feted last night in a pep rally where sports officials gave inspirational messages and eight school cheerleaders took turns in rendering their respective numbers for the Busan-bound athletes.

US faces Russia in superpower semis; China tackles Italy

By Erica Bulman
Associated Press Writer

BERLIN—The undefeated Americans will clash with the world No. 1 ranked Russians in what has been dubbed a Superpower semifinal summit Friday at the women's Volleyball World Championships.

On the other side of the draw, title favorite China faces Italy.

Though the Americans defeated the towering Russian side in a five-set nail-biter in the opening round, the outcome of Friday's clash is impossible to predict.

"We're expecting to go five sets as we always do with Russia," said American team captain Tara Cross-Battle. "We'll be fired up. We know it's going to be tough but we're going to fight to the finish."

Russia, this season's World Grand Prix champion, was a heavy title favorite when it arrived in Germany. However, the European side has met with unexpected difficulty, losing to the United States, and laboring to defeat Italy and Cuba in the second round.

Russian head coach Nikolai Karpol was also dissatisfied with his team's performance against Bulgaria in the quarterfinal.

"I hope my team will play better in its next match," he said. "They can't afford to make the same kinds of mistakes against the Americans if they hope to reach the final."

The Americans, on the other hand, have been the big surprise in Germany, sailing through their nine previous matches unscathed.

Blending experience and youth, the United States has been convincing, dropping only two sets in its journey to the semis, in a second round match against the Netherlands.

The team enters the round of four having eliminated defending champion Cuba in straight sets in the quarterfinal.

"We've had success so far and we played very well against Russia in the first round, but that doesn't mean anything now," said American head coach Toshi Yoshida. "There's more at stake now. They're one of the best teams in the world. I can foresee it will be a very difficult match so I don't want to predict anything. All we can do is try to prepare well."

The encounter will be a mighty clash between the power attacks of Russians Ekaterina Gamova, Evguenia Artamonova and Elizaveta Tichtchenko and the speedy offensive plays and blocks of U.S. players Logan Tom, Daniella Scott and Heather Bown.

The 2.05-meter outside hitter Gamova, who tops the individual rankings for the best scorer, blocker and server, poses a particular threat. *AP*

Schu looks forward to double celebration

By Piero Valsecchi
Associated Press Writer

MONZA, Italy—For five-time world champion Michael Schumacher, Sunday's Italian Grand Prix — whatever the outcome — will be an opportunity for a long postponed celebration and for enjoying the boisterous support of the Ferrari fans at the team's home track.

Last year, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks turned the race into a somber competition.

"I could not celebrate my fourth world title with the fans at Monza last year because it was a tragic moment," the Ferrari driver said. "This time, I'll have the chance to celebrate last year's and this year's titles at Ferrari's home track."

Italian fans were almost silent on Sept. 16, 2001, as Juan Pablo Montoya clinched his first Formula One win and Schumacher finished fourth. Schumacher considered not starting the race due to his shock and deep sadness over the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

"I don't know how many will show up at Monza Sunday. What I care is to get full, warm support of the Ferrari fans," he said Thursday, on the eve of free practice for the Italian GP. "I still remember times when they displayed a gigantic Ferrari flag at the circuit, their faces painted with the team colors."

As in 2001, Schumacher was preparing to start in Monza with the drivers' title already assured. His Ferrari team has already clinched its fourth consecutive world manufacturers laurel.

Showing an impressive superiority, Schumacher set a season record of 10 wins, beating Nigel Mansell's mark by one when he took the Belgian GP Sept. 1.

He also has made the podium in all 14 championship races so far.

His Brazilian teammate Rubens Barrichello added two wins. The only Ferrari misses came in Malaysia in March and in Monaco in May.

Schumacher has won the Italian GP three times in the last six years. It was unclear if the home team would push for another victory attempt by its No. 1 driver or if it would support Barrichello's efforts to secure second place in the drivers' standings.

Schumacher has an unbeatable lead of 122 championship points with races left in Monza, Indianapolis and Suzuka. Barrichello, with 51 points, is still battling Williams-BMW teammates Montoya and Ralf Schumacher who have 44 and 42 points respectively.

Barrichello said the runners-up place in the drivers championship was his priority.

"I'm looking forward to this Italian GP, which is usually a good race for us and the fans," he said. "Unfortunately last year was a sad weekend for everyone."

"I'm quite optimistic about this race. I'm also aware that Williams-BMW cars will be as competitive as they were here last year," the Brazilian driver said. *AP*

THE TWO F1 Ferrari cars of Michael Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello are being pushed at the new pits at Monza autodrome yesterday. AP

Blazers blaze trail to 'NC' glory

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran (Juniors)
4 p.m.—San Sebastian vs St. Benilde

By June Navarro

COLLEGE of St. Benilde scorched Philippine Christian University, 106-87, as the Blazers marched into the Finals of the 78th NCAA basketball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

PBA-bound Sunday Salvacion spewed fire throughout, scattering 34 points, including four triples and a pair of electrifying dunks as the Blazers arranged a best-of-three titular showdown against defending champion San Sebastian College next week.

It would be the second championship meeting between San Sebastian College and College of St. Benilde in three years with the Blazers ruling the 2000 edition.

Earlier, the Letran Squires downed the Mapua Red Robins, 90-78, to set up a championship showdown with the twice-to-beat San Beda Red Cubs in the Finals.

Al Magpayo, Jan Coching and Ernie Sagad also displayed explosive plays for the Blazers, who recovered from the sting of a 95-93 overtime setback against the Dolphins at the start of their Final Four battle last Wednesday.

Power forward Bernzon Franco sparkled with 28 points while swingman Jojo Roque added 20 but their brilliance failed to rub on to the rest of the Dolphins.

The 6-foot-3 Franco almost singlehandedly carried the Dolphins in the fourth period as he scored all but seven of their 23-point output in that span.

Veterans Alwin Ilagan, Nelson Gatdula and Loreto Soriano, who shone in Game 1, simply faded in the stretch and ended their collegiate career on a disappointing note.

St. Benilde's Verman Reyes was pulled out of the game on a stretcher with less than two minutes left after a bad fall.

Soriano committed a dangerous tackle on a driving Reyes, who was left sprawled on the floor for a few minutes that prolonged the agony of the Dolphins.

The Blazers had a roaring start, posting several double-digit margins as Salvacion, Sagad and Elvis Tolentino relentlessly attacked the basket.

From a 36-25 lead, the Blazers frolicked in the middle and rode on a torrid outside shooting that put them comfortably ahead, 57-41, late in the first half.

Then came Salvacion, who opened the third quarter with a triple and a one-handed dunk that hinted of things to come for the Blazers.

Salvacion's one-hand double-pump dunk with less than four minutes to go electrified the crowd and put a fitting end to the stubborn Dolphins as the Blazers entered the comfort zone, 95-81.

Earlier, Letran beat Mapua, 90-78, to earn the right to face San Beda for the junior title.

First game (Juniors)

LETRAN 90—Melegrito 18, Cua 18, Bituin 15, Walsham 10, Reyes 9, Dungcal 8, Javier 8, Avellamo 2, Quiamco 2, Guevarra 2.

MAPUA 78—Sta. Maria 28, J. Del Rosario 10, Marinas 9, Umali 7, Hubalde 6, Galinato 6, Garcia 4, Palomino 4, A. Del Rosario 2.

Quarters: 17-17, 45-38, 62-56, 90-78.

Second game (Seniors)

ST. BENILDE 106—Salvacion 34, Sagad 18, Tolentino 12, Orbeta 9, Capati 8, Coching 8, Magpayo 8, Mendoza 3, V. Reyes 2, U. Reyes 2, Castro 2.

PCU 87—Franco 28, Roque 20, Gaspi 12, Soriano 8, Ilagan 8, Gatdula 7, Sanz 4, Acraman 0, Gementiza 0.

Quarters: 34-22, 57-46, 80-64, 106-87.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

PCU's Jojo Roque (left) grapples for the ball with St. Benilde's Elvis Tolentino in their NCAA knockout game yesterday. St. Benilde won, 106-87.

Padala wins, ties Gov Piñol boys for lead

CEBU CITY—ML Kuarta Padala defeated sister team M. Lhuillier Jewelers, 82-77, in a highly intense match on Thursday to forge a three-way logjam in the Cebu Basketball League (CLB) Crunchtime at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Hercules Tangkay topscored for the Forwarders with 20 points but it was former MBA star Bruce Dacia and Joselito Celiz's crucial charities inside the final minute that sealed M. Lhuillier's first setback in four games.

The game was tightly-fought that two players were ejected for trading blows. Coaches from opposing teams were seen exchanging harsh words and the Kuarta Padala bench was slapped a technical after somebody threw a towel at one of the two referees.

Ex-pro Bong Marata hit a triple as the Jewelers closed to within 78-77 going into the last minute.

But Dacia countered with a layup and Celiz split his freebies for the final tally.

ML Kuarta, M. Lhuillier and the North Cotabato squad of Gov. Manny Piñol, a 98-93 winner over Forward Taguig, now sport similar 3-1 cards.

Ariel Trumpeta showed the way for the North Cotabato Braves with 32 points.

North Cotabato and M. Lhuillier face each other for an outright seat in the final.

North Cotabato, though, can still gain a finals appearance in case of a loss if Kwarta Padala likewise bows to Montaña in the last day of the elimination round.

In the other game, Davao City's Montaña Pawnshop notched its first win in four games after beating Forex Forwarders, 92-88.

Australia mulls hosting world 2010 cagefest

SYDNEY—Australia is considering a bid to host the men's world basketball championships in 2010.

Basketball Australia chief executive Scott Derwin told Reuters that Australia was investigating the possibility of a bid after the success of the Sydney Olympics and the inclusion of basketball in the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Derwin said Australia had spoken to basketball's world governing body Fiba and was now holding talks with local authorities about the possibility of a bid.

"We haven't made a formal decision yet but we're certainly thinking about it," he said.

"We've obviously got all the facilities and the infrastructure to stage something of this magnitude and yes we'd like to do it." The men's world championships are staged every four years.

The next tournament, in 2006, is to be staged in Japan with an expanded field of 24 teams. *Reuters*

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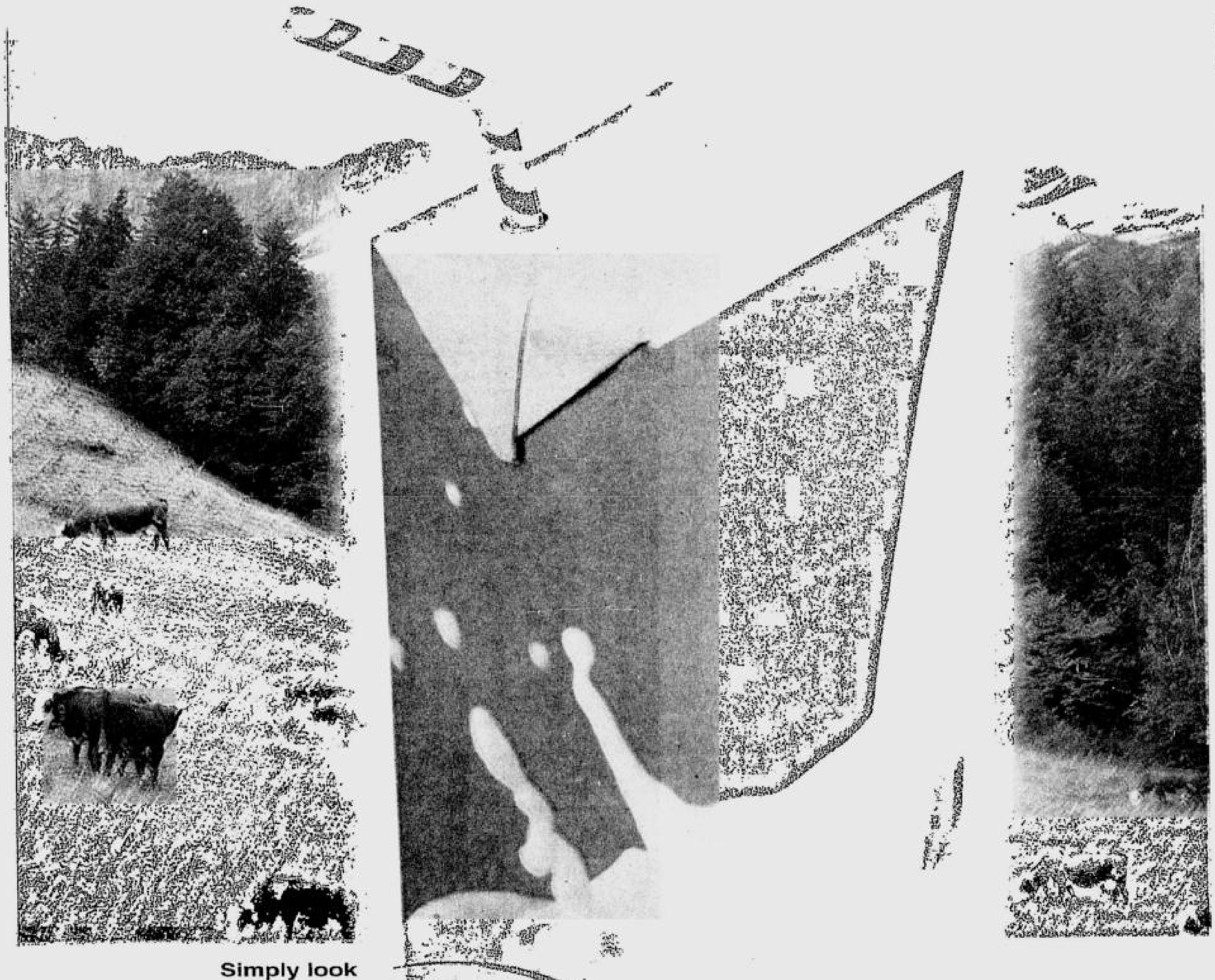
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PRESIDENT CUP

Srichaphan strikes anew, downs Marat

TASHKENT—Top seed Marat Safin of Russia failed to defend his title here after he crashed out of the $550,000 President Cup ATP event here on Thursday.

Fifth seed Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand, who is just 32nd in the ATP race, booked his semifinal berth with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) victory in one hour, 18 minutes over the event's hot favorite.

The 23-year-old Srichaphan started the match well, breaking Safin's serve early to clinch a 3-0 lead. He managed to hold his advantage through to win the set 6-3 in 30 minutes.

In the second set, both played to their maximum and did not concede any service games, forcing a tiebreak.

"I have met Marat (Safin) twice in previous tournaments," Srichaphan said. "I'm happy I managed to win on my third attempt.

"In the opening set Safin made too many mistakes including on several crucial points that helped me to seize the lead. It was really tough in the second set but when we played the tiebreak I was slightly more lucky.

"It was great to reach the semis with such a win." In the semifinals, Srichaphan will face Russia's veteran Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who easily saw off sixth seed Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia 6-3, 6-2 in 72 minutes.

Unlike his previous matches here, Kafelnikov looked confident against his 23-year-old opponent, who is 46th in the ATP race.

Russia's Sydney Olympic champion won the first set in 36 minutes after he broke Ljubicic's serve in the seventh game.

In the second set, Kafelnikov looked even more dominant, breaking his rival's serve twice to earn a place in the semifinals.

Tommy Haas of Germany, eighth in the ATP race and second seed here, retired from the tournament with a right shoulder injury, which prevented his from finishing his quarterfinal with Belarus' Vladimir Voltchkov.

Haas looked confident in the opening set. He was leading 5-2, when sudden pain in his shoulder forced him to ask the umpire to declare a break to receive medical treatment.

The German 24-year-old managed to win the first set 6-2. However, early in the second, Haas retired after Voltchkov, who is ranked 154 in the ATP race, made an early break, earning a 2-1 lead. *AFP*

SRICHAPHAN: Scaling the heights again.

AP FILE PHOTO

SPORTSWATCH

Kuerten, Seles advance in Brazil Open

COSTA DO SAUIPE, Brazil — Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten defeated Mashikea Washington of the United States 6-0, 7-5 Thursday evening to advance to the quarter finals of the Brazil Open. The tournament's top seed, Kuerten breezed through the first set but was surprised by 475th ranked Washington, who after being down a break 2-0 in the second set rallied back, breaking the Brazilian in the third game. Kuerten finally broke Washington again in the 10th game and then held his serve to win the match. Kuerten now faces Argentina's Gaston Etlis, 181 in the ATP rankings, who upset Brazil's Fernando Meligeni, earlier in the day, 6-1, 7-6 (3). *AP*

Hirang hailed Lambda Rho champion

ANDY Hirang captured overall low-gross honors in the recent Lambda Rho Beta Fraternity of the San Beda College of Law "Founder's Cup" at Valley's Executive course. Sharing honors with Hirang were Class A champion L. Valderama, Class B titlist Chito Borromeo and ladies division topnotcher Angie Perez. Grand Rhoan Julius Arca said the tournament was a success despite a heavy downpour. He thanked the sponsors and the 77 golfers who participated. Heading the sponsors were San Miguel Corp. and Kawasaki Motors Phils.

Auste leads arrival of 50 bikers

JAMES Auste, a cancer survivor and pioneer of Bike for Life, will lead 50 other riders back to the Bonifacio Global City tomorrow after 14 days of grueling cycling tour in Northern Luzon. Auste's journey has already covered 14 provinces and cities up North as his group rides for the welfare of children stricken with cancer. Auste and his pack of riders is set to arrive at 10 in the morning at Block 5, Jollibee Stopover in Fort Bonifacio.

CCP Joggers Club celebrates Sept. 21

THE CCP Joggers Club Inc., a socio-civic organization, will observe its 25th anniversary on Sept. 21. The day-long festivity will start with a Mass at 6 a.m. followed by an aero-marathon competition, parade and games. Sponsors of the club will give away freebies. A party will be held at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel at 7 p.m. Call 8960730 or 8954982 for details.

Philta Classic: Flores, De Castro prevail

SECOND seed Catherine Flores of Bicol University and No. 4 Ivy de Castro of Miriam College scored easy wins yesterday to reach the girls' 18-under semifinals in the Philta Classic 5 age-group tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

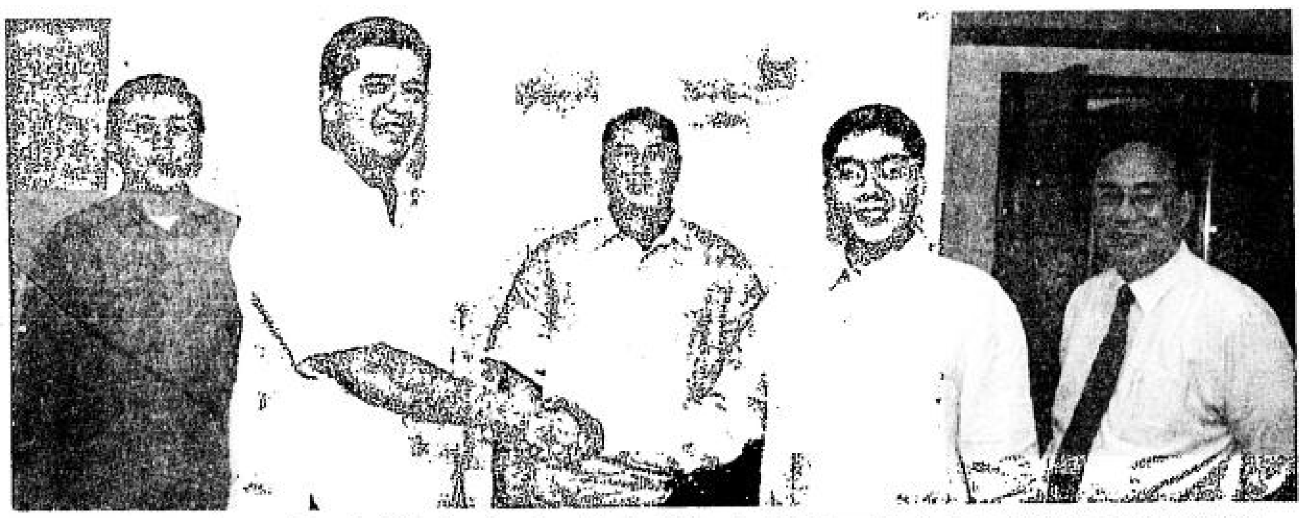
Flores breezed past Ana Martinez, 6-0, 6-1, while De Castro outclassed Kristel Samala, 6-1, 6-1.

Flores also entered the 16-under semifinals, beating Julie Em Botor, 6-4, 6-1, to advance against De Castro, a 6-1, 6-1 winner over Melissa Orteza. Other winners were Bien Zoleta over Angelica Ngo, 6-1, 6-0, and Kristel Samala over Jessica Agra, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (5), 7-5.

Earlier, No. 1 Gerard Ngo of Lourdes School defeated Jose Opulencia, 6-3, 6-2, and No. 3 Patrick Arevalo demolished Juan Gabriel Pena, 6-0, 6-0, to advance in the boys' 12-under semifinals of this two-weekend event supported by Dunlop balls.

Gaining semifinal berths in the unisex 10-under class were Sarah Jane Lim, Akio Sy, Joseph Baldonado and Juna Gabriel Pena.

In the boys' 18-under division, No. 2 Joseph Arcilla of Letran downed Rolly Anasta, 6-4, 6-4; No. 5 Dino Ferrari defeated Chris Fitz, 6-0, 6-2; and Patrick John Tierro rallied past Michael Basco, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, to gain quarterfinal slots.



ROBERTO Roxas (second from left) shakes hands with the Philippine Daily Inquirer's Rene R. Reinoso after signing the agreement for PDI's sponsorship of the 7th Paul Harris Golf Cup. Also shown are Spencer Say, Tom Pohang and Inquirer CFO Jun Ymson (extreme right).

Paul Harris Cup golf slated Nov. 22

THE SEVENTH edition of the Rotary Club of Makati-Ayala's Paul Harris Cup golf tournament kicked off recently with the signing on of the Philippine Daily Inquirer as major sponsor of the annual fundraising event.

The tournament will be held on Nov. 22 at the Manila Golf Club in Forbes Park, Makati City and is open to Rotarians from all districts and their friends.

The Paul Harris Cup is the premier golf tournament of Rotary District 3830 and is named in honor of Rotary founder Paul Harris.

The funds to be raised from the tournament will be for the various medical and dental missions being held by the Club in barangays Pembo and Rizal in Makati City, as well as for Project Roselle, a program designed to provide computers and convert textbooks into the Braille language for the blind and visually impaired.

The Club is holding this year's edition of the Paul Cup Harris at its home club Manila Golf in order to provide easy access to the more than 100 expected participating Rotarian and guests who will again be vying for individual and team competition honors, as well as the Club's traditional top raffle prize of a brand-new Rolex watch.

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Pill to kill

THE LAST chance is today. If Ateneo fails anew and loses to La Salle, expect the Archers to laugh their way to the victory stands.

I'm not kidding.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

One after the other, they fell by the wayside. Not even one came really that close to beating La Salle. It was like seeing Schumacher reduce his Formula 1 foes like a bunch of go-kart kids in the Indy 500. No contest, fellas.

What could be the reason?

"They still have the toughest lineup, man for man," said a legman of mine of the Archers. "Their conditioning is such that they can play three games non-stop in one day, and then they will yearn for another game after only a 15-minute rest."

In their first 13 games of the UAAP season, the Archers displayed the bamboo's unbending will to withstand the fury of the harshest of storms.

In tight instances, they dished out escape acts that put Houdini to shame.

In endgame situations, they showed the stuff that makes legends.

Said one La Salle observer: "One secret they have is, their alumni association has the strongest support ever for its basketball program."

I needled him for more.

"Their formula is, a champion basketball team triples the success factor of the university," he said. "More trophies, more visibility. More visibility attracts adherents, patrons. The positive chain reaction is triggered only by one--success."

Thus, who would ever think Ren Ren Ritualo's departure would create a big dent on La Salle's offense?

Man, with Mike Cortez blossoming into more than a PBA-like star, Ritualo's absence has been hardly noticed at all.

But this is not to say Ateneo can't win today. It also has good material to derail La Salle's 14-game sweep.

To be sure, their first meeting was a non-meeting. In that mismatch, Rich Alvarez, the hottest Eagle in captivity, was out serving a mystery-shrouded suspension. Now that he's back, will Alvarez make life miserable for La Salle, even if only a bit?

Maybe.

But if LA Tenorio, an endangered Eagle, can't make it today due to a bad hand, Ateneo may yet crash again without even having taken off yet.

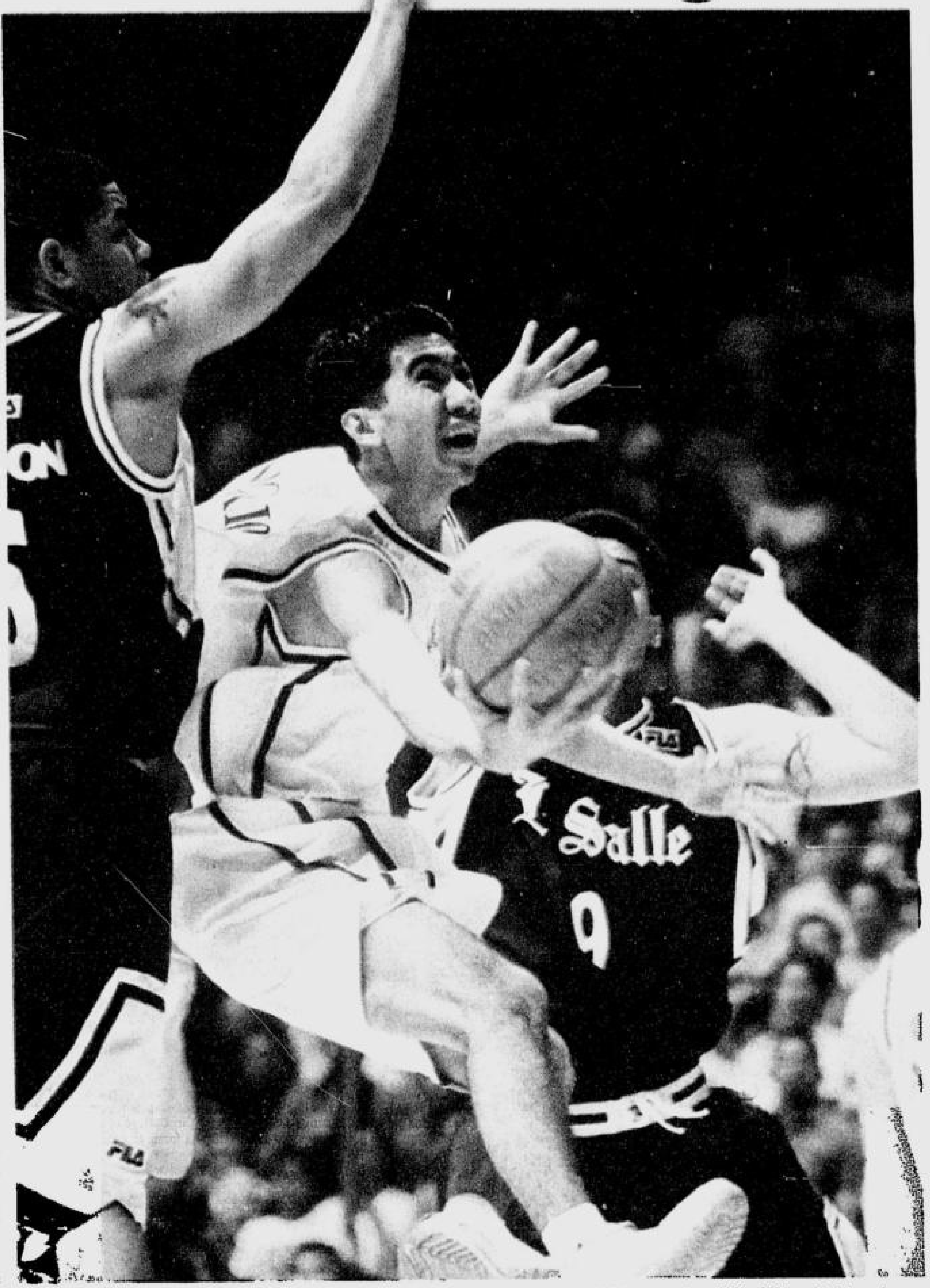
Against La Salle, it's always been that way for the opposing team: uphill. Not only for Ateneo, but for the entire field as well.

The cure to that seems as remote as the pill to kill colon cancer.

■

Because *Fatal Attraction* was the biggest movie then (1987), I called him Petal (Rey Fetalvero). Because Petal adored the movie, he carried that monicker with relish. Petal died on Sept. 12 after a stroke; he was 39, an Inquirer employee for 16 years. Petal, a page-maker under my watch for a decade or so, had been a member of three Inquirer basketball teams that I coached. A defensive specialist with a knack for a Samboy Lim-like layup, his dream was to win just one crown. He got his wish early this year when our Sports Team finally won the inter-color championship. During the victory party, I saw that extra twinkle in Petal's eyes. 'Twas a twinkle of satisfaction. Bye, Petal. Enjoy your vacation.

La Salle battles Ateneo 5, seeks rare 14-game sweep



THE STATUS of spitfire LA Tenorio, shown here making one of his daredevil drives against Willy Wilson (left) and Carlos Sharma, remains unsure in today's Ateneo-La Salle game at the Araneta Coliseum. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	13	0
UE	9	4
Ateneo	8	5
UST	8	5
FEU	5	8
UP	4	9
Adamson	3	10
NU	2	11

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
2 p.m.--FEU vs Adamson
4 p.m.--La Salle vs Ateneo

By Dennis U. Eroa

IT RARELY happens and whether five-peat seeking La Salle can seize this moment will be known today as it renews its rivalry with Ateneo in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

No less than a chance to become the third team in recent memory to sweep the eliminations awaits La Salle, which won its last 13 games through a display of talent, plain hardwork and the ability to stay cool even during the most trying of times.

"This game is going to be a struggle. Ateneo is a fully-rested team and it has the inside track to gain the twice-to-beat advantage. We need to stay together as the Eagles are coming on strong," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

Pumaren said the Archers must stay focused to achieve the 14-game sweep and equal the 1993 record of University of Santo Tomas.

UST record

The first squad to make the sweep, according to available UAAP records, was Far Eastern University, which won all its 12 games during the 1981 season. The Tamaraws were powered then by a smooth-moving, 6-foot-4 American medical student named Anthony Williams, who was unstoppable at the paint.

FEU and UST automatically won the titles back then. However, La Salle (which is eyeing its ninth straight finals appearance) will have to go through a best-of-three series to win this year's title.

"Everybody's in a great physical shape and it's more of mental execution (to win the game)," Pumaren said. "I'm just fortunate to have a bunch of hardworking guys who are ready to sacrifice." La Salle downed Ateneo, 70-60, in the first round, upping its head-to-head advantage to 23-13 since 1986.

Glorious end

The Eagles are determined to put a glorious end to a rough and tumble season. Sans starter LA Tenorio, Ateneo won its last four outings, a testament to its rock-solid determination.

It is still unsure whether Tenorio, who fractured his hand during practice, will see action though team officials said he will be in uniform today. He, however, joined Ateneo's practice yesterday at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Complex.

Ateneo (8-5) shares third with UST and a victory will boost its bid for the second slot and the twice-to-beat edge.

"I hope we can catch the Archers a little bit tight and nail them down today," said Ateneo coach Joel Banal, whose unwavering faith in his charges is now paying high dividends.

Power playing Enrico Villanueva, Rich Alvarez, Wesley Gonzales, Jec Chia and Larry Fonacier will fuel the Eagles' bid.

Mike Cortez, BJ Manalo, Carlo Sharma, Joseph Yeo, Willy Wilson, Adonis Sta. Maria and Mark Cardona banner La Salle.

LA SALLE - ATENEO HEAD - TO - HEAD MEETINGS SINCE 1986 (DLSU LEADS 23 - 13)

1986: ATENEO 77, DLSU 65
ATENEO 81, DLSU 80
1987: ATENEO 95, DLSU 91
ATENEO 98, DLSU 89
1988: DLSU 78, ATENEO 76
ATENEO 73, DLSU 72
ATENEO 76, DLSU 70
1989: DLSU 77, ATENEO 69
ATENEO 67, DLSU 61
1990: DLSU 64, ATENEO 57
DLSU 66, ATENEO 64
1991: DLSU 99, ATENEO 77
DLSU 79, ATENEO 75
1992: DLSU 70, ATENEO 64
DLSU 94, ATENEO 89
1993: DLSU 81, ATENEO 71
ATENEO 77, DLSU 66
1994: DLSU 81, ATENEO 66
ATENEO 73, DLSU 72
1995: ATENEO 54, DLSU 49
DLSU 66, ATENEO 58
1996: DLSU 77, ATENEO 69
ATENEO 80, DLSU 55
1997: DLSU 61, ATENEO 54
DLSU 68, ATENEO 66
1998: DLSU 64, ATENEO 50
DLSU 87, ATENEO 75
1999: ATENEO 60, DLSU 57
DLSU 70, ATENEO 59
2000: DLSU 94, ATENEO 70
ATENEO 66, DLSU 63
2001: DLSU 91, ATENEO 76
DLSU 76, ATENEO 63
DLSU 74, ATENEO 68
ATENEO 76, DLSU 72
DLSU 93, ATENEO 88
2002: DLSU 70, ATENEO 60

Angels tie A's for lead in AL West

ANAHEIM, California—The Anaheim Angels had an answer for Oakland's late-game magic.

Scott Spiezio's two-out RBI single in the ninth gave Anaheim a 7-6 victory over Oakland on Thursday night and moved the Angels into a first-place tie with the Athletics in the AL West.

The Angels have won 13 of 14 games, including the final three of a four-game series against Oakland. They are tied for the lead for the first time since Aug. 21.

"That was a heck of a series and we came out on top in three of them," Anaheim manager Mike Scioscia said. "Even though we shot ourselves in the foot tonight, these guys never got down."

After Eric Chavez's two-out homer off Brendan Donnelly (1-1) tied it in the top of the ninth, the Angels rallied to win in the bottom half. *AP*

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chicago White Sox 5, Kansas City 1; Boston 6, Tampa 3; Texas 7, Seattle 3; Cleveland 5, Minnesota 4; NY Yankees 7, Baltimore 3; Anaheim 7, Oakland 6.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Philadelphia 6, Florida 1; NY Mets 8, Montreal 2; Houston 6, St. Louis 3; Cincinnati 15, Chicago Cubs 12; Colorado 7, Los Angeles 1.

CINDER PATH QUEEN

'Set aside differences and win the gold'

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHEN a track and field athlete is dubbed the "Cinder Path Queen," you can bet she belongs to the past.

For one, cinder--made up of sand, clay, well-burned coal and concrete-was popularly used as a running track back in the 50s.

For another, today's track oval is synthetic.

"They don't use it anymore today," said Rogie Ferrer. "Back then, I ran on it, sometimes barefoot, chasing the wind. I had the best times of my life running."

She may be an icon of the past, but there wasn't a trace of oldness in Ferrer, who still maintains the slim, shapely figure that used to enthrall sports fans, sportswriters and photographers back when she won Asian Games medals.

"I remember her vividly because she's the only female athlete without any muscles," said Philippine Sports Commission deputy executive director Junie Dizon, who was himself a former athlete. "She was very stunning on the track."

Yes, even before Lydia De Vega captivated the nation with the strides of her long, round legs, Ferrer already captured the fancy of sports fans with her effortless charm and grace.

But she's got toughness inside too, winning a lot of accolades in track and field, the most prominent of which were the silver and bronze medals in the 1954 Manila and 1958 Tokyo Asiads, respectively; they came in relay events.

After retiring from track and field, she took up golf competitively until the 70s, winning, among others, the women's overall championship in Hong Kong and third place trophy in Class A competitions in the Singapore Open.

She opened several businesses after that, but left everything to "seek change" in the United States in 1981 where she met and eventually married Michael Pell, who she shares her passion in golf.

"I spent the first nine years in the Bay Area (San Francisco) and then I transferred to Arizona where I have businesses right now," said Ferrer, who co-owns the Myer Pest Control with Pell's step father Fritz Kling. She also works for the Lancashire Group, a security agency, owned by Ian McDonnell.

Pell passed away five years ago and her life went full circle when she recently came back to the country for the first time to receive the Outstanding Alumnus Award in the field of sports given to her by the Negros Occidental High School in Bacolod City.

"It feels good to be home again," said Ferrer, who also received cash incentives for her contributions to Philippine sports through the Sports Incentive Award. "It feels very good to know that people still appreciate you."

For the sports of today, Ferrer has some encouraging news.

"During our time, we also have intrigues and our sports officials had their own share of differences," said Ferrer. "It is something you set aside when you set your sights for gold medals abroad."

The only thing they had back then that athletes don't have now, according to Ferrer, is the breathtaking view of the Manila Bay when they hang around after a day's training at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

"Roxas Boulevard now was still called Dewey and the only thing you saw back then across the coliseum was a skating rink," she said.

A lot has changed since then, but Ferrer - like the glorious generation that she represents - will always be Philippine sports' ageless icon.

FERRER: Still a beauty 40 years or so later.

Nike hands out ₱2M to SBC champs

SAN Beda College basketball players recently received P150,000 worth of gift certificate for winning the Nike 3 on 3 national championship.

The awarding ceremony was held at the Alabang Town Center attended by Nike Philippines marketing manager Colo Ventosa, sports marketing manager Auty Villarama and marketing communications executive Rely San Agustin.

RIVIERA AMATEUR GOLF

Bayron keeps 4-shot lead; JR running 2nd

BAYRON

STEADY despite the tough weather conditions, Jay Bayron scored a third consecutive two-over-par 73 in the third round on Thursday and remained comfortably afloat four strokes after the third round of the inaugural Riviera Amateur Championship.

Bayron, a former national player, stayed within sight of his biggest amateur title since winning the National Caddies title with his 219 total for three days at the all-weather Langer course of the Riviera Golf Club.

Young JR Tanpinco gave himself a shot at Bayron after submitting the tournament's lowest round, a one-under-par 71, that sent him jumping from sixth to solo second at 223 with nobody close enough to challenge for the crown.

Korean Lee Seong Ki was virtually out of it after he tallied another 76 for 227 and his compatriot Suh Woo Ram, scoring a 77, followed at 228.

Mt. Malarayat mid-amateur winner Dave Hernandez kissed his bid for a second major title goodbye after he ballooned to an 82 and slipped to fifth at 223 in the event sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Adidas/ Taylormade and Orica Explosives Phils. Inc.

The Riviera Amateur is part of the Club's two-major offering, the other being the National Pro-Am sponsored by UBIX set this in November.

Erik Escalona shot a career-best 71 to emerge the solo leader in Class A while Andy Vasquez paced the fancied Danny Pizarro by one in senior play with a 79. Both Class A and seniors play are only for 36 holes while championship is for 72 holes.

6 games kick off Bacolod football tilt

BACOLOD CITY—Six games will kick off the national men's football championship tomorrow in four different venues here.

It will be Negros Oriental against Davao at Bago field, Cebu against Baguio at USLS and Rizal against top-seeded NCR (National Capital Region) at Paglaum Stadium, all at 7:30 a.m.; Iligan against Masbate at Bago and Cagayan de Oro against Iloilo at USLS, both at 9:30 a.m.; and Negros Occidental against Dipolog at Pana-ad turf at 5 p.m.

A 90-minute opening ceremony will be held at 3:30 p.m. at the Pana-ad Stadium with Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon heading the guests of honor.

The other special guests are Congressman Monico Puentevella and Charlie Cojuangco, who is also president of host Negros Occidental Football Association (Nofa), Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain, Bacolod City Mayor Luzviminda Valdez and Philippine Football Federation president Rene Z. Adad.

The 12 contenders in this year's competition–four each from Luzon, Visays and Mindanao–have been bracketed into three groups in the elimination round.

The groupings are Negros Occidental, Dipolog, Cebu and Baguio in A; Rizal, NCR, Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo in B; and Negros Oriental, Davao, Iligan and Masbate in C.

Bannered by Air Force, NCR boasts six players who are likely to make the national team to the Tigers Cup this December in Indonesia. These are goalkeeper Edmundo Mercado, Leo Jaena, Harold Bayona, Winnie Subere, Ziggy Tonog and Ian Araneta.

Araneta played for the under-21 national team that saw action early this year in Brunei.

The national tourney organized by PFF and supported by PSC and Congressmen Puentevella and Cojuangco will end on Sept. 20.

Greene reign ends

PARIS—World silver medalist Tim Montgomery is set to dethrone fellow-American Maurice Greene as world number one over the 100 meters at Saturday's Grand Prix athletics final. Greene pulled out of the meeting on Thursday after a disappointing season during which he has failed to reproduce the dominant form of the last few seasons. Greene, the Olympic and world champion, has been on top of the world rankings since they were introduced two years ago although Montgomery defeated him at the Zurich and Brussels Golden League meetings. *Reuters*

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'Kidapawan Bakbakan' Oct. 18-19

TOUGH cocking action takes center stage in Kidapawan City on Oct. 18-19 when the "Bakbakan sa Kidapawan 2002" is held at the Green Mahogany Gallera.

With the full support of Thunderbird Power Feeds, the event looms as one of the biggest and most prestigious stagfests in Mindanao which will feature Southern Philippines' finest gamefowl breeders.

A guaranteed cash prize of P300,000 is at stake for an entry fee of P5,500.

"Only stags wingbanded by the Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association (Migba), GM Gallera and North Cotabato Gamefowl Breeders Association (NCGBA) will be accepted," GMG's Ting Rica said.

The contest opens with the two-stag eliminations on Oct. 18, anchored by the two-stag finals on Oct. 19.

For further information, call 0919-5643162, 0918-9276923 or 0916-4346312.

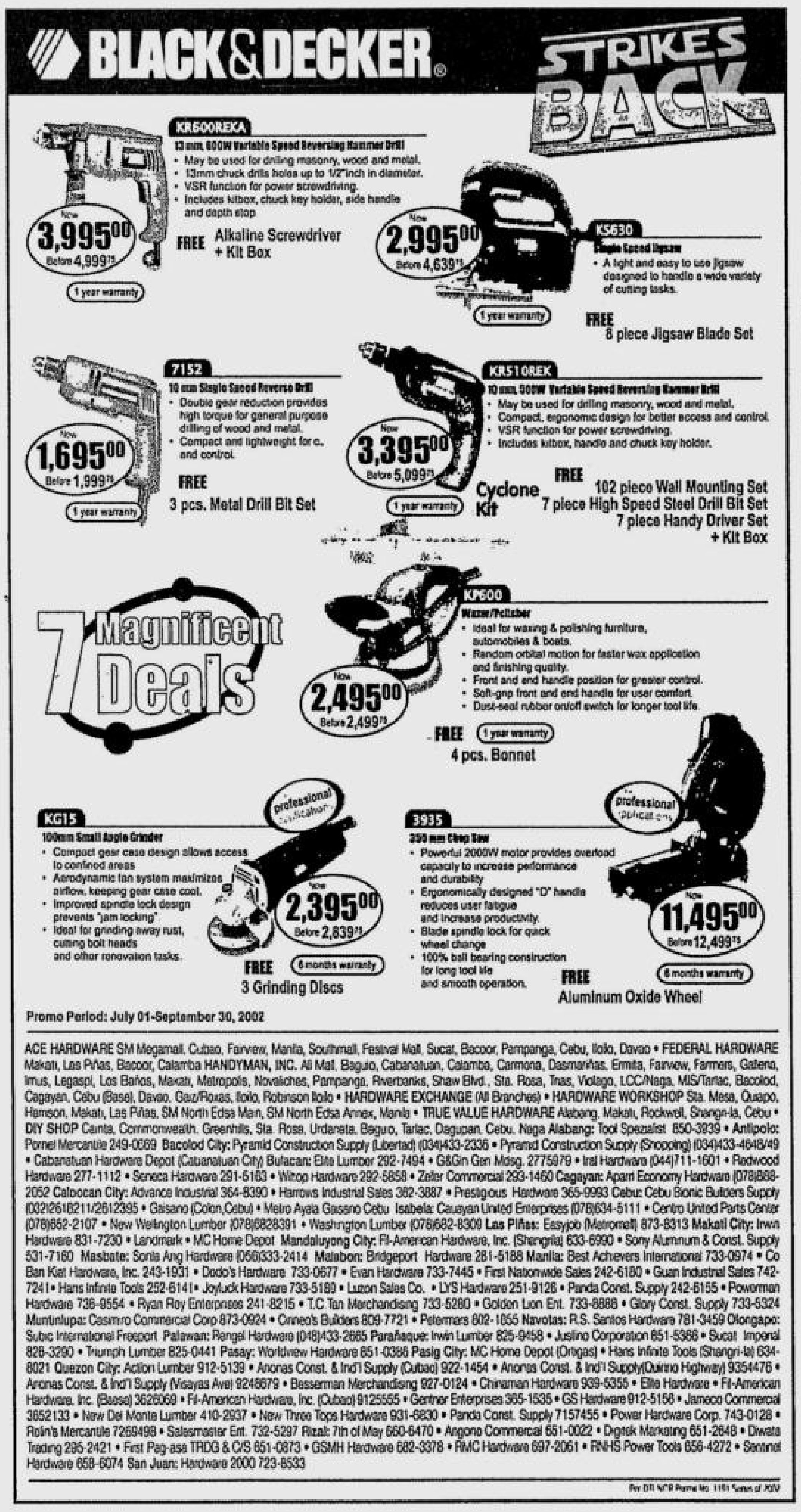
SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: 2002 F1 Qualifying - Italian Grand Prix at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: This is the PGA Tour at 8:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA Bank of Montreal Canadian Women's Open at 1 p.m. on ESPN
Tiger's Bridge to the Future at 3 p.m. (r) on ESPN
Senior PGA Allianz Championship at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Star Sports
TENNIS: US Open 2002 at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 11 a.m. (r - 6 p.m.) on Star Sports
Kobe Bryant - Destiny's Child at 11:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN
SOCCER: Futbol Mundial at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
English Premier League Preview at 12:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9:55 p.m. on ESPN
Goals! at 3:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Robert Pactolerin shot a one-under-par 70 to post a seven-stroke victory over Rudy Labares in the Shell-Sime Derby Open in Cebu City. Also today in 1992, Rudy Labares fired a one-under-par 71 and posted a one-stroke victory over Jessie Hernandez in the Del Monte Open in Bukidnon.



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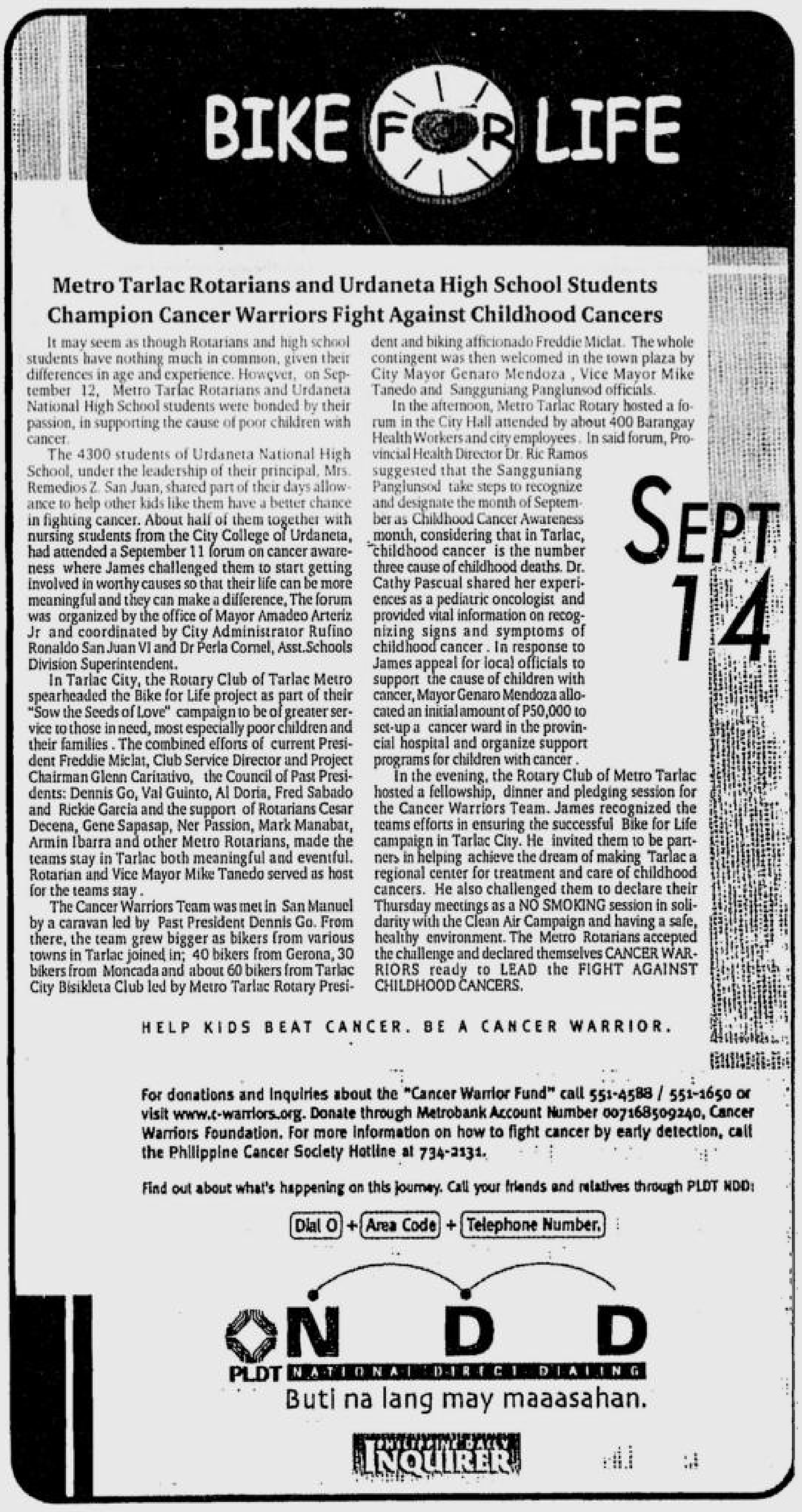

Metro Tarlac Rotarians and Urdaneta High School Students Champion Cancer Warriors Fight Against Childhood Cancers

It may seem as though Rotarians and high school students have nothing much in common, given their differences in age and experience. However, on September 12, Metro Tarlac Rotarians and Urdaneta National High School students were bonded by their passion, in supporting the cause of poor children with cancer.

The 4300 students of Urdaneta National High School, under the leadership of their principal, Mrs. Remedios Z. San Juan, shared part of their days allowance to help other kids like them have a better chance in fighting cancer. About half of them together with nursing students from the City College of Urdaneta, had attended a September 11 forum on cancer awareness where James challenged them to start getting involved in worthy causes so that their life can be more meaningful and they can make a difference, The forum was organized by the office of Mayor Amadeo Arteriz Jr and coordinated by City Administrator Rufino Ronaldo San Juan VI and Dr Perla Cornel, Asst.Schools Division Superintendent.

In Tarlac City, the Rotary Club of Tarlac Metro spearheaded the Bike for Life project as part of their "Sow the Seeds of Love" campaign to be of greater service to those in need, most especially poor children and their families . The combined efforts of current President Freddie Miclat, Club Service Director and Project Chairman Glenn Caritativo, the Council of Past Presidents: Dennis Go, Val Guinto, Al Doria, Fred Sabado and Rickie Garcia and the support of Rotarians Cesar Decena, Gene Sapasap, Ner Passion, Mark Manabat, Armin Ibarra and other Metro Rotarians, made the teams stay in Tarlac both meaningful and eventful. Rotarian and Vice Mayor Mike Tanedo served as host for the teams stay .

The Cancer Warriors Team was met in San Manuel by a caravan led by Past President Dennis Go. From there, the team grew bigger as bikers from various towns in Tarlac joined in; 40 bikers from Gerona, 30 bikers from Moncada and about 60 bikers from Tarlac City Bisikleta Club led by Metro Tarlac Rotary President and biking afficionado Freddie Miclat. The whole contingent was then welcomed in the town plaza by City Mayor Genaro Mendoza , Vice Mayor Mike Tanedo and Sangguniang Panglunsod officials.

In the afternoon, Metro Tarlac Rotary hosted a forum in the City Hall attended by about 400 Barangay Health Workers and city employees . In said forum, Provincial Health Director Dr. Ric Ramos suggested that the Sangguniang Panglunsod take steps to recognize and designate the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness month, considering that in Tarlac, childhood cancer is the number three cause of childhood deaths. Dr. Cathy Pascual shared her experiences as a pediatric oncologist and provided vital information on recognizing signs and symptoms of childhood cancer . In response to James appeal for local officials to support the cause of children with cancer, Mayor Genaro Mendoza allocated an initial amount of P50,000 to set-up a cancer ward in the provincial hospital and organize support programs for children with cancer .

In the evening, the Rotary Club of Metro Tarlac hosted a fellowship, dinner and pledging session for the Cancer Warriors Team. James recognized the teams efforts in ensuring the successful Bike for Life campaign in Tarlac City. He invited them to be partners in helping achieve the dream of making Tarlac a regional center for treatment and care of childhood cancers. He also challenged them to declare their Thursday meetings as a NO SMOKING session in solidarity with the Clean Air Campaign and having a safe, healthy environment. The Metro Rotarians accepted the challenge and declared themselves CANCER WARRIORS ready to LEAD the FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD CANCERS.

HELP KIDS BEAT CANCER. BE A CANCER WARRIOR.

For donations and inquiries about the "Cancer Warrior Fund" call 551-4588 / 551-1650 or visit www.c-warriors.org. Donate through Metrobank Account Number 007168509240, Cancer Warriors Foundation. For more information on how to fight cancer by early detection, call the Philippine Cancer Society Hotline at 734-2131.

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Red Bull defeats Talk N Text, 89-81

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La Salle battles Ateneo /A22

GAME TOMORROW *(Araneta Coliseum)*
5:30 p.m—Red Bull vs Talk N Text (Game 5)

BATANG Red Bull came out with a vengeful 89-81 victory over Talk N Text last night and equalized their championship showdown at 2-2 in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup Finals at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Willie Miller fended off the Phone Pals' last ditch effort after sinking both of his freethrows and knocking in a decisive triple in the final minute to save the Thunder from total collapse.

Sean Lampley, who donned the Red Bull jersey and replaced Tony Lang on a short notice, amply filled the vacuum supposed to be created by the ailing import.

"We felt it was the right decision to replace Lang. Being last year's best import, expectations were high on Lang and he's a victim of that," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao on their decision to let go of the 6-foot-8 import.

Game 5 is set tomorrow at the Big Dome with the Thunder reducing their title fight against the Phone Pals into a best-of-three affair.

Lampley finished with 22 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder, who got double-double performances from Julius Nwosu and Davonn Harp.

Nwosu scored 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to earn best player honors while Harp turned in 16 points on top of 10 rebounds and five assists.

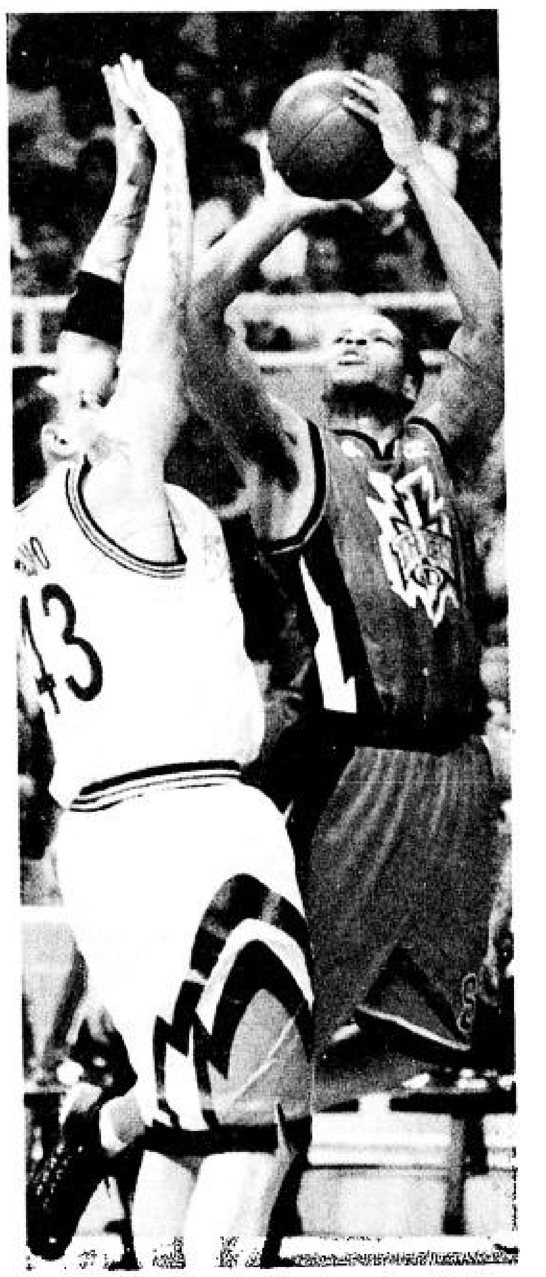
The Thunder actually started out strong, posting 20-point margins three-fourths of the way before the Phone Pals sprang a fierce uprising.

Donbel Belano and Gilbert Demape buried a triple each and triggered the important plays as the Phone Pals threatened to take the game away from the Thunder, 74-76, entering the final two minutes of play.

RED BULL 89—Nwosu 27, Lampley 22, Harp 16, Miller 11, Valenzuela 10, Torion 3, Reyes 0, Tugade 0, Villoria 0, Hizon 0, Asaytono 0.

TALK N TEXT 81—Mickeal 31, Honeycutt 19, Demape 10, Belano 8, Crisano 4, Telan 4, Lago 3, Evans 2, Pablo 0.

Quarters: 27-18, 53-32, 67-51, 89-81.



NEW Red Bull import Sean Lampley (right) defies the defense put up by Talk N Text's Alex Crisano to score inside the paint during Game 4 of their PBA Commissioner's Cup finals last night. Red Bull won, 89-81.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Caging, 'volley' up in WNCAA

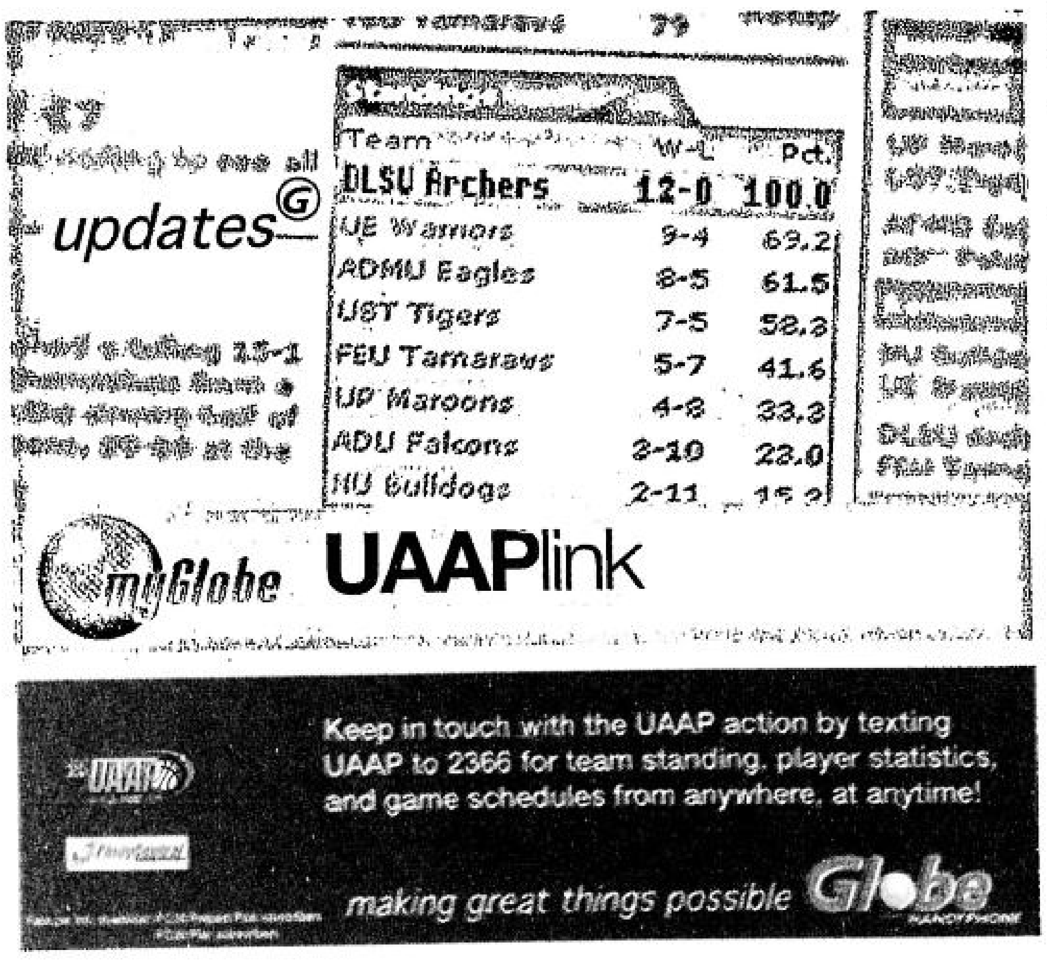
GAMES TODAY *(Basketball, SSC gym)*
8 a.m. AC vs MC (midget)
9 a.m. SSC vs DLSZ (midget)
10 a.m. MC vs SSC (HS)
11:30 a.m. DLSZ vs AC (HS)
1 p.m. CSB vs UA-P (college)
2:30 p.m. Lyceum vs SBC (college)
(Volleyball, Lyceum gym)
9 a.m. SBC vs SSHS (midget)
10 a.m. SSC vs MC (midget)
11 a.m. DLSZ vs AC (HS)
12 nn SSC vs MC (HS)
1 p.m. UA-P vs SC (college)
2:30 p.m. Lyceum vs RTU (college)

IT WILL be an exciting women's weekend as the 33rd WNCAA-adidas starts its semifinal phase today in the basketball and volleyball events.

College of St. Benilde and University of the Assumption-Pampanga, which both swept their nine elimination assignments in college basketball and volleyball, respectively, shoot for the first finals slot at 1 p.m.

CSB, the defending cage champion, faces UA-P at the St. Scholastica's College gym while UA-P meets Siena College of Quezon City at the Lyceum gym.

Lyceum, the second-ranked team in both events and last season's college volleyball champ, go for the second finals berths at 2:30 p.m.



updates

Team	W-L	Pct.
DLSU Archers	12-0	100.0
UE Warriors	9-4	69.2
ADMU Eagles	8-5	61.5
UST Tigers	7-5	58.3
FEU Tamaraws	5-7	41.6
UP Maroons	4-8	33.3
ADU Falcons	3-10	23.0
NU Bulldogs	2-11	15.

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‘Go to court or shut up’

FERNANDO

By Leila B. Salaverria, Jerome Aning, and Tina Santos

IF SIDEWALK vendors are dead set on stopping the Metro Manila Development Authority's campaign to rid the sidewalks of obstructions, including the vendors themselves, then they should go to court and seek legal remedy to their problem. Otherwise, they should just shut up.

This was according to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who was reacting to public demonstrations against his campaign, the latest of which was a rally held at Malacañang last Thursday.

"*Sa korte na nila dalhin o manahimik na sila* (They should just go to court or else keep quiet)," Fernando yesterday said in an phone interview.

He said that despite voices of dissent, majority of Metro Manila residents support his campaign.

"They have already brought the case to the public, and the

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CAYETANO

TINGA

Recall poll petition filed vs Tinga

By Christian V. Esguerra

UNFAZED by accusations of politicking, Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano and the local political opposition yesterday filed a petition for recall election against Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga.

Signed by 84 members of the 162-strong Preparatory Recall Assembly (PRA), the petition seeks to oust Tinga, saying residents have lost confidence in his 15-month-old administration.

Election officer Armando Vencilao received the petition at 9:50 a.m. and said he would refer it to Ferdinand Rafanan, chief of the Commission on Elections National Capital Region, for appropriate action.

If the recall election is held, Tinga would be the third Metro Manila mayor since Reynaldo Malonzo of Caloocan and Wenceslao Trinidad of Pasay to face the possibility of ouster through such an initiative.

But Tinga is confident that like Malonzo and Trinidad, he would also survive the recall petition which he had described as "legally dead."

Cayetano himself came under fire for initiating the recall petition. He was accused of politicking and trying to dominate local politics in the flood-prone town.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel had sought the repeal of his brainchild, the Local Government Code, arguing that politicians have abused its provision on recall.

Vencilao yesterday admitted that the recall election procedures are "vague and unclear."

"That's why we're basically relying on precedents, on jurisprudence," said.

Cayetano yesterday challenged Tinga to resign with him to prove that the petition is based on legitimate positions.

RECALL POLL/A27

Barangay man takes curfew too far, strangles boy

By Philip Tubeza

A MANILA barangay councilor was accused of choking an 11-year-old boy for violating the curfew, although the city's curfew ordinance has not been put into effect.

The relatives of the boy yesterday filed a complaint against barangay councilor Regina de Luna of Sta. Ana, Manila at the Western Police District General Assignment Section.

They said the incident happened about 9:30 p.m. Thursday in front of the boy's home on Aragon Street in Sta. Ana. The boy was playing with his friends when De Luna came and told them to go home, saying it was curfew time. The boy answered that there was still no curfew.

De Luna allegedly got angry and throttled the boy and then dragged him before he escaped from her grip.

The curfew ordinance has not taken effect because Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has not signed it into law. He wants the ordinance changed so that the curfew would not take effect during weekends, when youngsters flock to Malate district and other popular entertainmet places in the city.

Some Manila barangays, however, have been known to implement their own curfew.

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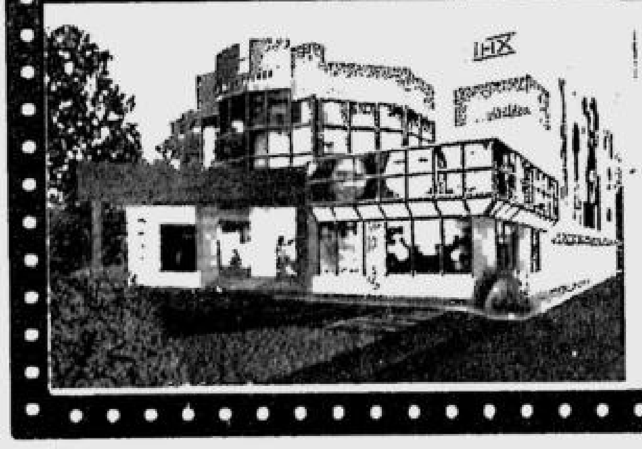

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5	LAMAN
6	BAKAT
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8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY

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4	LAMAN
5	SIGNS
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	CLOSED
8	SEX & ZEN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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4	JOLOGS
5	DERAILED
6	LAMAN

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2 more murder charges vs Chika Go suspect

By Philip C. Tubeza

VICTOR Macaldo, the suspected gunman in the killing of former Manila councilor Chika Go, would be lucky if he gets to spend the rest of his life in jail. The Manila police is preparing to file three more cases against him that carry the death penalty.

Macaldo, 27, already faces charges of murder and robbery with homicide and two counts of frustrated homicide.

But Macaldo, of Molino, Bacoor, Cavite, will be charged with two more charges of murder and another of robbery with homicide, according to Detective Norberto Obrero of the Western Police District homicide section.

"*Patong-patong na* (The charges are one on top of another)," Obrero said. "He'd be lucky if he gets to spend the rest of his life in jail and not get the death penalty."

Witnesses had positively identified Macaldo as the gunman who shot at Go's Mitsubishi Pajero along Reina Regente Street in Binondo last Aug. 10.

Chief Inspector Juanito Taluban, WPD homicide chief, said the two additional murder charges are for the killings of Sta. Mesa barangay captain Diosdado Reyes on Oct. 18, 2001 and businessman Arthur de la Rosa on March 10, also in Sta. Mesa.

He said witnesses positively identified Macaldo in the two killings. While he was not the one who shot Reyes, he was one of the four accomplices of the gunman, Taluban said.

Obrero said Macaldo admitted, in front of his lawyer that he was involved in Reyes' assassination.

He said Macaldo also admitted he killed SPO1 Fernando Rellenas, 44, of the Plaza Miranda police community precinct in Sta. Cruz, on May 1[illegible]

Obrero said Macaldo's involvement in Rellenas' killing was also confirmed after the 9 mm slug recovered from the crime scene was traced to the 9 mm gun recovered from the suspect.

"We had it examined with ballistics and the bullet matched the gun," Obrero said.

He said the WPD would inform the Manila Prosecutor's Office about this development since two men, PO1 Joe Abuan and Tristan Gungab, were charged with Rellenas' killing.

Abuan allegedly had a nervous breakdown after he was accused of the crime.

"It would depend on the court if Macaldo's admission would be considered a mitigating circumstance," Obrero said.

"But so far, he has not admitted to being involved in the Chika case," he added. "That might get him death."

Pasay prison guards probed for 'coddling'

By Christian V. Esguerra

PASAY CITY prison officials are facing investigation for allegedly coddling the policemen suspected of murdering the brother of former movie actress Marissa del Mar in 1999.

Clarito Jober, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology regional director, yesterday ordered an investigation of the jail guards who had been tasked to secure the alleged killer of SPO1 Jaime Magsino, said Chief Insp. Jaime Silva, the Pasay jail warden.

Silva said Jober gave his office three days to complete the investigation. If found guilty, the jail guards could be suspended, relieved, or dismissed from the service, he said.

The investigation came after Malacañang asked Interior Secretary Jose Lina to reprimand Pasay jail officers for allegedly giving special treatment to the accused—SPO2 Romeo Isidro, PO3 Jesus Bongon Jr., PO1 Ricardo Eusebio, and Jojit George Contreras.

Del Mar said yesterday the investigation was long overdue since the suspects have been in jail for nearly two years now.

Citing the account of witnesses and video footages, the former actress said the accused were being allowed to move freely in and out of the Pasay jail.

Last Wednesday, she said Isidro and Eusebio were caught on video going to a lawyer's house in Mandaluyong and eating with their jail guards in a Makati restaurant, following a hearing in Pasig City. Wearing no handcuffs, they supposedly returned to jail about three hours after the hearing.

The four suspects, together with Remegio Almonte and Robert Sy, allegedly shot dead Del Mar's brother in August 1999 after he refused to protect their supposed illegal drug operations in Pasay City.

Leprosarium 'privatization' hit again

By Tina Santos

ABOUT 2,000 leprosy patients of the Tala Leprosarium in Camarin, Caloocan City yesterday denounced the government's privatization plan for the insitution.

But leprosarium officials said there was no such government plan.

Members of the Save Tala Leprosarium Movement carried a symbolic coffin in a "funeral march" to Tala Hospital, now known as E. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, to protest the Department of Health's reported plan to privatize the institution.

The hospital, standing on 100 hectares at the boundary of San Jose Del Monte Bulacan and Caloocan City North, has been the sanctuary of thousands of leprosy patients for more than two decades now.

Ferdie Gundayao of the Save Tala Leprosarium Movement said the government plans to transfer the patients to the Bicol Sanitarium.

Gundayao said Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo reportedly had signed a memorandum of agreement with the DOH and the National Housing Authority (NHA) to distribute land titles to about 100 families living in the Tala Estate.

But the Tala Leprosarium director, Dr. Remigio Benigno Reyes, denied Gundayao's claim. He said the government has no plans of privatizing the institution.

"I have no idea where these reports came from," Reyes said. "Actually it's an old issue and there is no truth to it.

Recall poll ...

From page A25

"This is all about issues, not politics," Cayetano told the INQUIRER. "My critics should first review the petition, visit Taguig and see the town for themselves before they make sweeping accusations against me and my family."

Among the many issues raised against Tinga is his alleged dictatorial rule marked by the destruction of projects initiated by Cayetano. He is also accused of stuffing the municipal hall with about 3,000 employees receiving a total of about P15 million a month, including several of his relatives.

'Go to court or shut up'

From page A25

public has decided," he said. "Eighty-two percent of the public agree with my campaign."

Vendors have said that Fernando's sidewalk campaign violates Executive Order No. 452.

"That's basically illegal," he said of the EO. "That can't be implemented immediately. It needs an implementing order from the city council."

He gave the INQUIRER a copy of the Supreme Court decision which said public streets should be beyond the commerce of man and cannot be leased to private individuals. The decision cites another Supreme Court ruling that said mayors do not have the authority to give permits for the use of public property.

He maintained that sidewalks are sacred space that cannot be violated by anyone.

"Not even the President can appropriate the sidewalks for vendors, *sagrado yan eh* (they are sacred)," he said.

The Federation of Regional Development Councils of the Republic of the Philippines yesterday expressed support for Fernando.

"(The Federation) fully believes that the strategic programs of Chairman Fernando, more especially the program on the comprehensive and sustained clearing of sidewalks from all types of illegal obstructions, will optimize the use of existing roadways and decongest traffic in many areas of the metropolis," the federation said in a resolution signed on Sept. 10.

Fernando is chair of the Regional Development Council-National Capital Region.

In Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza, president of the Metro Manila mayors league, called for a master plan on street vending to end the standoff between vendors and the MMDA.

But Atienza said the actual enforcement of any policy should be left to Metro Manila local governments, with the MMDA only monitoring and coordinating roles.

In a news conference in Malate, he said this is the stand of the "greater majority" of the mayors of the 13 cities and 4 municipalities in the National Capital Region.

Also yesterday, the MMDA started clearing the sidewalks in Caloocan City, with Fernando's men tearing down houses and other structures on sidewalks, particularly in the Monumento and on Samson Road.

A peanut vendor, identifying himself only as Romy, 39, said: "We can't understand the position of the government. If it is against us selling goods on the sidewalks, it should not blame us if we engage in snatching, holdup and other illegal acts in order to survive."

Valenzuela dump closed

DETERMINED to teach residents the importance of waste segregation, the Valenzuela City government has decided to close down the dump in Barangay Lingunan.

The closure of the controlled dump facility is also meant to give way to the construction of riprap, canals and access road to the dumpsite, according to Valenzuela City Mayor Emmanuel "Bobbit" Carlos.

The dump accommodates garbage daily from the city's 28 barangays. "But the city government has decided to close it at least for an indefinite period to enable us to effectively implement our eco-waste management strategy," Carlos said.

He said city residents will have to start carrying out the segregation scheme which the local government has been pushing for several years now.

He said barangays Gen. T. De Leon, Marulas, Canumay, Poblacion and Polo have been practicing waste management.

Army general vs reporters

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

DR. FERNANDO A. Melendres, executive director of the Lung Center of the Philippines, is having trouble with his subordinates, about 90 percent of the medical staff and rank -and -file employees.

From what this writer has gathered, Melendres, an Erap-appointee, is very unpopular with his subordinates because he rubs them the wrong way.

A doctor-subordinate describes Melendres as having an "irrational behavior" in managing the center. He shouts at them like a teacher shouting at unruly pupils. He reportedly berates them even before patients. Many in his staff are doctors and nurses.

***

"Probably, his irrational behavior is one of the after-effects of having once been addicted to Demerol," the doctor said.

Demerol is a narcotic painkiller and is highly addictive. Melendres allegedly used Demerol for a long time until he was rid of the addiction a few years ago.

In fact, Melendres was yanked out of the LCP years ago when he was its deputy director for his irrational behavior due to his alleged addiction to Demerol.

***

He beat up his wife in front of many people, according to some subordinates, when he was "high" on Demerol.

That was one of the reasons he was kicked out of the LCP.

But then he came back as LCP chief during the time of President Erap to everybody's surprise. But they learned later that he is an uncle of Joy Melendres, one of Erap's paramours.

***

Melendres should be kicked out of the LCP if only to get that hospital back on keel again.

The fight between Melendres and his subordinates is affecting the hundreds of patients, as well as out-patients, of the hospital.

The efficiency of the hospital staff has greatly diminished because of Melendres' quarrel with his subordinates.

Whom would President Macapagal- Arroyo side with: Melendres or the 90 percent of the hospital staff?

***

Who's this eye doctor at the Manila Doctors Hospital, known among his circle as "the glaucoma king," who berated his patient for complaining that his eye condition had worsened?

The doctor reportedly even insulted the patient in front of his wife.

When the patient complained that he still had dry eyes and the small cysts on his upper and lower lids had not disappeared since the last treatment, this doctor allegedly replied: "Why? Are you afraid your wife will no longer look at you? Or are you afraid that your friends will no longer talk to you? What is really your problem?"

***

The patient had gone to this doctor because instead of being cured, he now had blurred vision and saw twinkling stars whenever he opened his eyes after blinking.

The patient's wife asked the doctor if her husband's worsened condition would go away.

His reply: "I already answered your question!"

"No, Doctor, you did not answer my question," said the wife.

Apparently agitated by the wife's comments, the doctor shot back: "You know, you can ask my assistant here what you have. But I don't need to ask her, I myself know what you have. You can even change doctors, I don't care, my ego will still be intact because I am the best."

The patient and his wife left the doctor's clinic shocked at his rudeness.

The doctor was probably "high" on drugs. Some doctors take addicting drugs to calm their nerves.

***

Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, the Army's top-ranking officer in Sulu, will soon have a head-on collision with journalists covering the military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu. That's for sure!

Tolentino has banned reporters from the troubled island-province, even threatening to have them detained. He said that he didn't want reporters kidnapped or killed by the bandits.

By what authority is he doing that?

***

I doff my hat to Joseph Morong of GMA-7 television news for challenging Tolentino's order.

"Do we have a choice? It's our job to get the real story from the area," Morong said.

Tolentino doesn't have a choice but to allow reporters to cover the military offensive in Sulu.

O, baka naman may tinatago kang kababalaghan diyan sa Sulu, General?

***

It would be better for the good general to leave the reporters alone. He has a job to do, they have theirs.

If he insists in having his way, he'll be put in a very embarrassing position. Mapapahiya lang siya.

Tolentino should remember we are no longer under martial law.

***

Besides, why should Tolentino be over-solicitous of reporters' safety when they're not his superior or guardian?

Like soldiers, reporters know what they're getting into. Being killed or maimed is part of a journalist's risk in chronicling a shooting war.

***Magtrabaho ka na lang diyan at huwag mong pakialaman ang trabaho ng* reporters.**

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Ordinary acts of honesty by 121 airport employees

MONDOYO

A CULTURE of honesty reigns at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, where this year alone, 121 employees have distinguished themselves for ordinary acts of honesty.

Florita Mondoyo was a contractual janitress at the Domestic Airport when she found an envelope containing $10,000 in the middle of last year.

It was the first time that Mondoyo had ever laid her hands on an amount that big.

But before her co-workers could even ask why, she immediately stopped cleaning and reported the find to the public assistance desk, which promptly paged the owner who turned out to be an Indian businessman.

Mondoyo is now a regular medical aide at the Naia Medical Division.

Naia General Manager Edgardo C. Manda, who personally appointed Florita and awarded her with a commendation and cash, said it was the least management could do in recognition of her honesty.

Airport Police Corporals Ric Manalo and Rolly Lim and security guard Ian Canencia were also commended for returning almost P5 million in cash, and valuables to its Filipino-Canadian owner.

PNP-ASG staffer Susan Gutierrez turned over a bag containing $7,000 and 14,000 Korean Won (roughly P450,000) and a cellular phone which he found at the initial check-in counter of the Domestic Aiport.

Gutierrez's colleagues, Rhandie Relleca, and Ariel Metillo returned cellular phone and assorted jewelry, respectively, which they found separately at the Domestic Airport to owners Anjanette Co and Sanli Jarida.

PNP-ASG staffer Pedro Tronco found and returned German Euros and travellers' checks belonging to tourist Gunter Ralf.

The list continues to grow.

The culture of honesty comes out naturally among the workers at Naia, according to Manda.

He says the honest employees never asked for anything in return either from the owners of the valuables they found or from their bosses.

A common reply from the founders of huge amounts of cash or jewelry is that these do not belong to them and that they feel sorry for the owners, says Manda.

Others say that they can afford to feed their family so that they do not have to covet what is not theirs to put food on the table. Still, some of the honest employees emphasize that integrity is the only wealth they can be proud of and they won't give this up for anything in the world.

That is why Manda sees to it that he immediately recognizes every act of honesty reported to him even though he can't give anything more than certificates of merit or commendations.

"Knowing that they have done something good and have been noticed for it is a pride for these people that no amount of money can buy."

The family atmosphere among the workers operating at the Naia also contributes to the culture of honesty among the workers, Manda says.

Apart from their colleagues, both government and private sector employees know at least somebody among their counterparts so helping hands come in easy in times of problems, he adds.

NAIA General Manager Edgardo Manda shakes the hand of Airport Police Corporal Ric Manalo, one of 3 airport personnel who found P5 million in cash and valuables left behind by a Filipino-Canadian.

THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD. Benedicta Gonzales finds a home among the dead at the Caloocan Public Cemetery.

VAL HANDUMON

LLDA to course moves through city government

By Jerome Aning

THE Laguna Lake Development Authority has agreed to "closely coordinate" in future with the Manila city government when exercising its mandate.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday made this announcement after he and other city hall officials met with LLDA general manager Calixto Cataquiz early this week.

"Mr. Cataquiz agreed that the LLDA would follow proper procedures and he would instruct his people to coordinate with the agencies of the city government," Atienza told reporters yesterday.

Earlier, the mayor scored the LLDA for failing to coordinate with city authorities in the closure of the Savory Restaurant in Escolta last weekend.

Savory was accused of not having a waste treatment facility and of dumping waste into the Pasig River.

The LLDA agreed to reopen Savory after it paid a fine.

"Although the LLDA has jurisdiction over such issues, they should course their actions through city hall," he added.

New CPD chief vows to solve carnap cases in Quezon City

By Alcuin Papa

NEWLY installed Central Police District Director Sr. Supt. Napoleon Castro Jr. yesterday promised to change the reputation of Quezon City as the carnap capital of Metro Manila.

He made this promise during turnover ceremonies of his assumption as Quezon City's chief of police at Camp Karingal, CPD headquarters.

Castro said the city has long been known to have the highest incidence of car thefts among the 17 cities and municipalities of Metro Manila and among the four police districts.

About three vehicles are stolen everyday in Quezon City by carnap syndicates operating.

Castro said in his speech during the turnover that he had outlined his own strategy to reduce the incidence of car thefts in the city. But he did not reveal this strategy and instead asked city residents to just observe and wait.

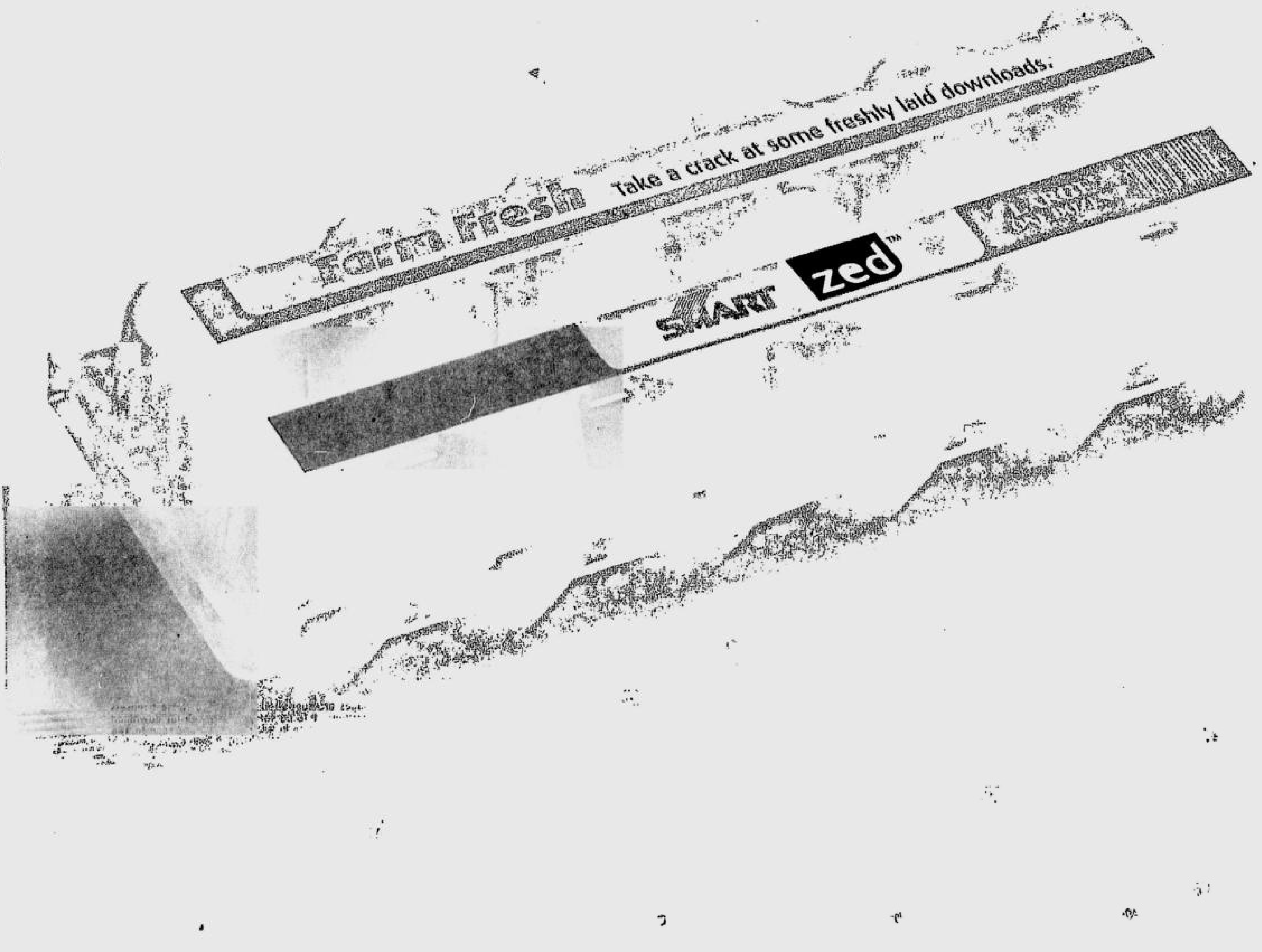
Aside from solving the carnap cases, Castro also vowed to prioritize the fight against illegal drugs. He said the proliferation, distribution and use of illegal drugs was the root cause of crime in the city.

Waterless in Novaliches

THERE will be no water in barangay 135, 168, and 169 in Sauyo; Mabuhay Compound; Sitio Cabuyao; and NIA Village, all in Novaliches, Quezon City for four days starting at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17 until 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22.

Maynilad said the water service interruption will give way to the annual cleanup of the Bagbag reservoir and the installation of a 60-hp submersible pump at Bagbag.

Affected residents are advised to store water for the duration of the service interruption or call Maynilad hotline 1626 for the water-rationing schedule.



Robbers hit Kenny Rogers near UST

By Philip Tubeza

THE BRANCH of the popular Kenny Rogers restaurant in front of the University of Santos Tomas was robbed on Thursday night.

The heist is the second to hit a fast-food chain in Sampaloc in three weeks.

About seven heavily armed men barged into the Kenny Rogers branch on the corner of A.H. Lacson and Dapitan streets in Sampaloc, in front of the UST hospital, said Supt. Amado Pabustan, Sampaloc police chief.

He added that the investigators were still trying to determine the amount the robbers had taken with them since the restaurant officials refused to divulge details.

Pabustan said the robbery took place at around 9:45 p.m., minutes before the restaurant was scheduled to close.

He said the suspects, who were armed with long arms, fled in two escape vehicles.

"There was a guard, but he had no gun with him," Pabustan added. "It was hidden in their office. He was also not in uniform."

He said the robbers took the money from the cashier. They also took the valuables of the two customers.

"Witnesses said the robbers were able to take only coins," Pabustan said. "But we still don't have any estimate."

He said the robbery lasted only "less than three minutes."

Pabustan said the robbers behind Thursday's heist could be the same ones involved in the Sampaloc and Pasig robberies.

He declined to give more details, adding that the police are closely following up the case.

Mandaluyong's senior high students tested for drugs

A TOTAL of 1,825 high school students from Mandaluyong City's public high schools recently underwent free drug testing as part of the city government's anti-drug campaign among the youth.

For two months, Mayor Benhur C. Abalos, along with officials from the Department of Education, the city health office, city medical hospital and drug testing laboratory personnel, visited four public high schools to administer the tests.

The four participating public schools include Mandaluyong High School, Neptali Gonzales Sr. High School, Jose Fabella Memorial School and the City of Mandaluyong Science High School.

"This is our continuing commitment in battling the drug problem in our city," Mayor Abalos said. "We have the responsibility to take care of our children and the youth, and so we do what we think is necessary to ensure that they are safe from the dangers of such a menace."

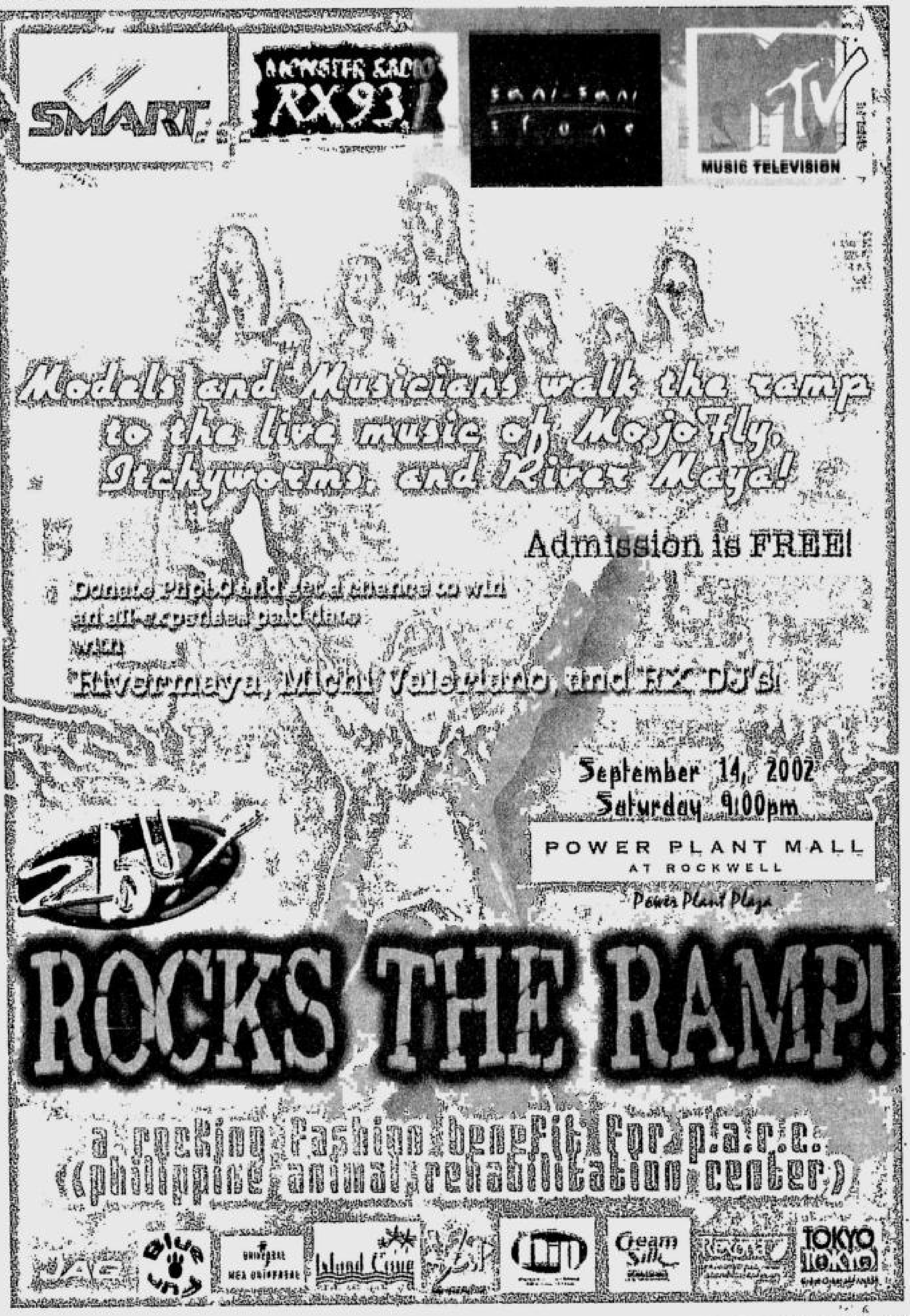
Six out of the 1,825 students, or about 0.03 percent, were found to be using illegal drugs. But the results, as stated in the waiver of parental consent, will be strictly confidential.

There will be no sanctions, academically or otherwise, on the six students found positive. Only the parents will be informed of the test results formally and confidentially. In the event that intervention is needed, the government may provide assistance programs on guidance and rehabilitation.

Drug testing among students is actually an offshoot of Mayor Abalos' continuing anti-drug program to address the need for early detection of drug addiction among the youths, and to assist drug users into rehabilitation.

Project co-chair Oscar Lagman said this program is now on its third year and is a joint effort of the city government in cooperation with the city hospital and the education department.

Mandaluyong is the only LGU in the metropolis to require its senior high school youths to undergo drug tests. This is to make sure that the schools are drug-free.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SURPRISE! PIC SURPRISE · this way up PIC THISWAYUP2 · PIC TOAST1 · PIC UMBRELLA · VHS PIC VHS · PIC VIKINGHORN · PIC WORMY · PIC LOUDMUSIC · PIC PEEKABOO · drink? PIC WANNADRINK

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Jumpin' Jumpin *Destiny's Child* **TONE JUMPIN** • Is It Okay If I Call You Mine *Paul McCrane* **TONE CALLUMINE** • Our House *Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young* **TONE OURHOUSE**
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Coloma dies at 66

FILIPINA Dizon Coloma of Vergara, Mandaluyong City, passed away on Thursday.

She was 66.

She is survived by her husband, Gregorio, her children and grandchildren.

Her remains lie in the family residence on I. Cruz Street, Vergara, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Tuesday at the Mandaluyong Municipal Cemetery.

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
AYALA CINEMAS
The 4th Israeli Film Festival

Sept.19 (Thu)		Sept.20 (Fri)		Sept.21 (Sat)		Sept.22 (Sun)	
Clean Sweep	2:00	The Policeman	11:30	Growing Pains	11:30	Total Love	11:30
Kippur	4:30	Don't Give a Damn	2:00	Yana's Friends	2:00	Late Marriage	2:00
Growing Pains	7:00	Late Marriage	4:30	Clean Sweep	4:30	Yana's Friends	4:30
The Policeman	9:30	Total Love	7:00	Kippur	7:00	Don't Give a Damn	7:00
		Yana's Friends	9:30	Late Marriage	9:30	Clean Sweep	9:30

Sept.23 (Mon)		Sept.23 (Mon)		Sept.23 (Mon)	
Total Love	2:30	Growing Pains	2:30	Kippur	2:30
Don't Give a Damn	4:30	The Policeman	4:30	Late Marriage	4:30
The Policeman	7:00	Clean Sweep	7:00	Total Love	7:00
Kippur	9:30	Don't Give a Damn	9:30	Yana's Friends	9:30

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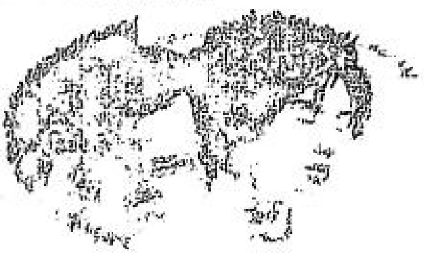

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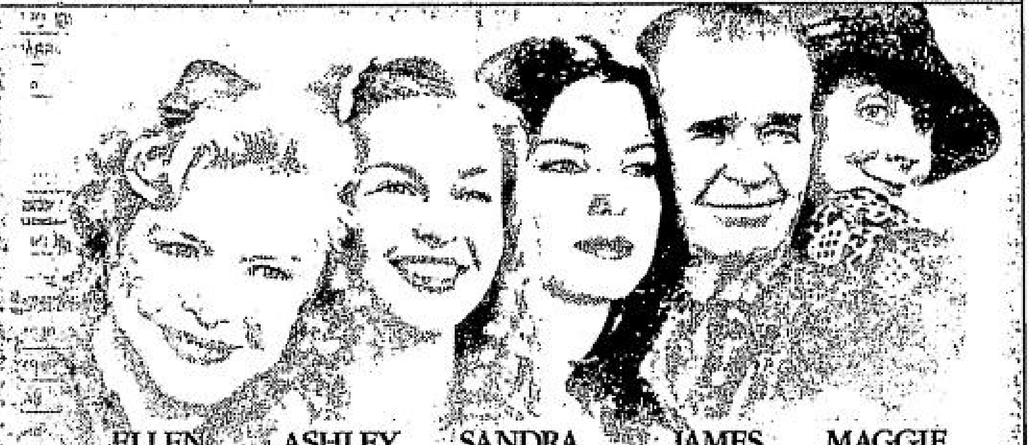

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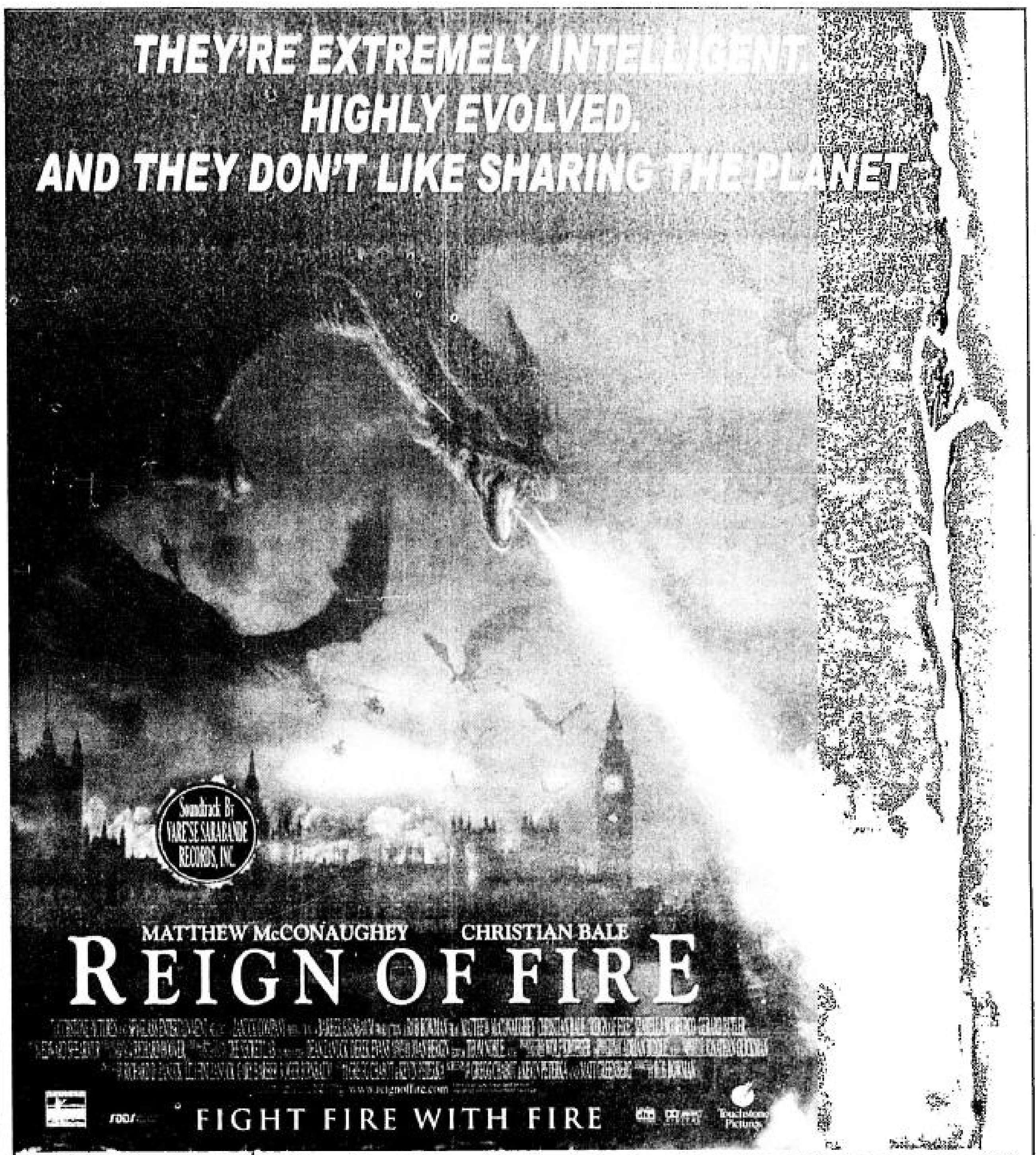
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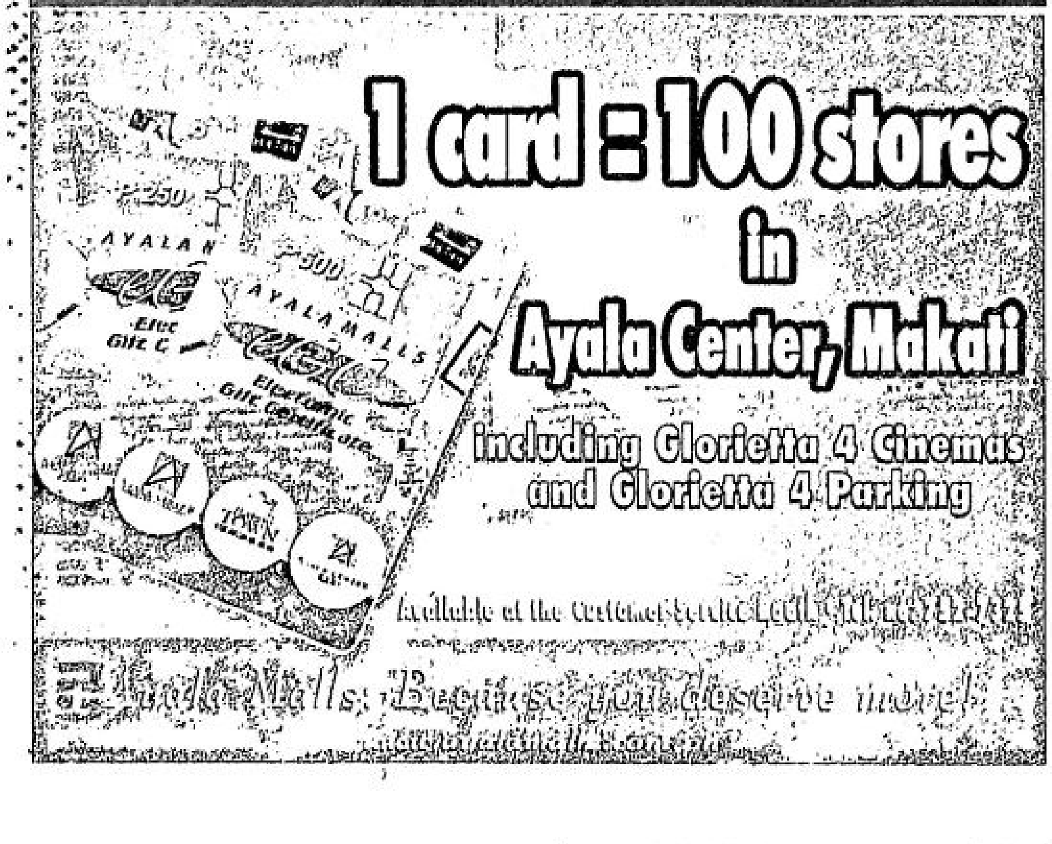
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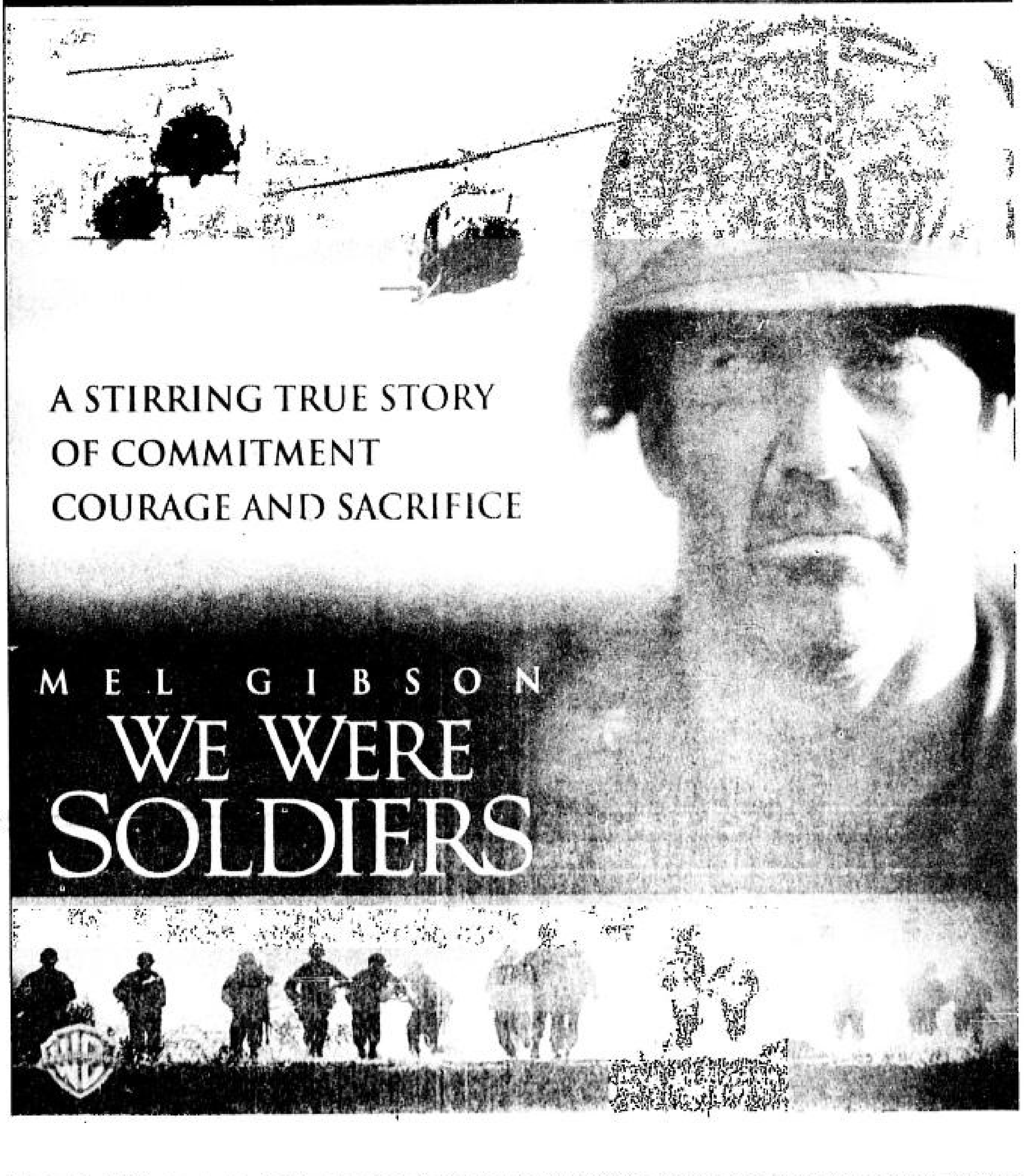
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MEL GIBSON
WE WERE SOLDIERS

Manila to require all workers, applicants to take drug test

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA City Council yesterday passed on second reading a city measure requiring all applicants and employees of private firms and local government to undergo drug testing.

The aldermen approved the recommendations of the committees on health and laws that seconded the bill.

They also made minor amendments to the proposal, authored by Councilor Amalia Tolentino of the 4th district. The bill would be published before the third and final reading.

The main purpose of the drug tests is "to guarantee normal efficient services" to city residents, Tolentino said.

Under the proposal, applicants to any job position in private firms and the city government need to pass a drug test prior to admission.

The current employees, meanwhile, would undergo drug testing every year.

For casual, contractual and appointed city government employees, failing the drug test would mean automatic termination of their services.

Any career, personnel or elective city official found positive for illegal drugs would be suspended, without pay, indefinitely or until they are eventually tested negative.

In private firms, casuals or regular employees will be automatically dismissed if they fail.

The proposed ordinance tasks the mayor to select the company which would administer the drug tests. Private establishments are allowed to choose their own drug testing firm.

All drug testing firms, however, must be accredited with the Department of Health.

Owners and managers of private offices and chiefs of government offices who do not enforce the measure will be fined P5,000 or imprisoned for up to three months.

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REIGN OF FIRE P13 11:25,1:30,3:35, 5:40,7:50,10:00	SIGNS P13 12:40,2:55,5:10, 7:25,9:40	DIVINE SECRET OF YA-YA SISTERHOOD P-13 12:30,2:55,5:20, 7:45,10:10

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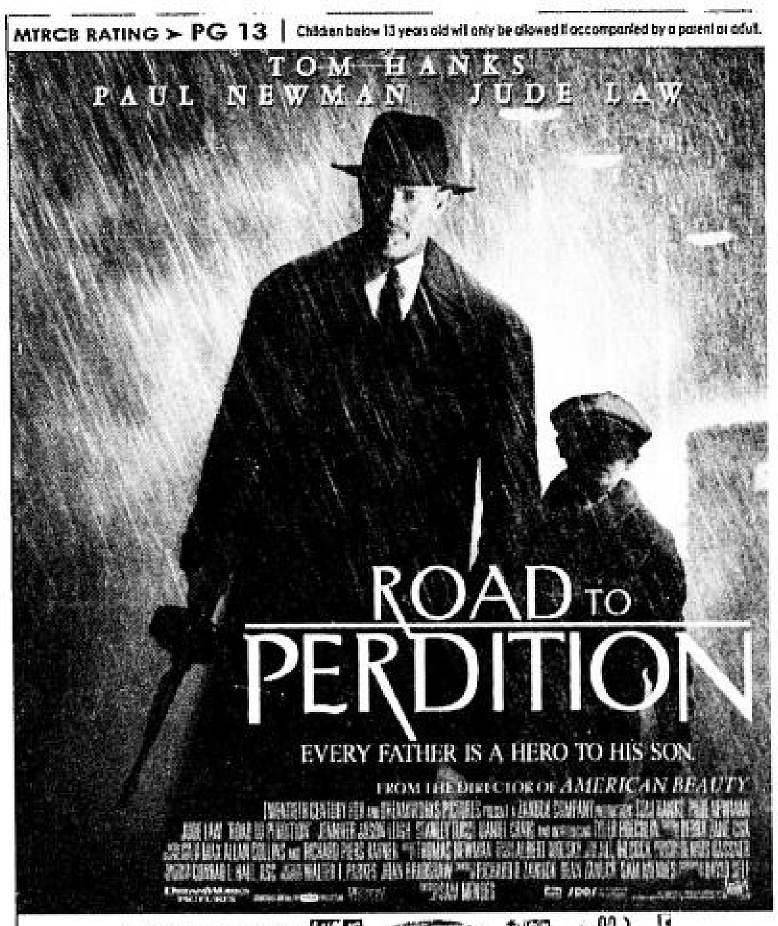
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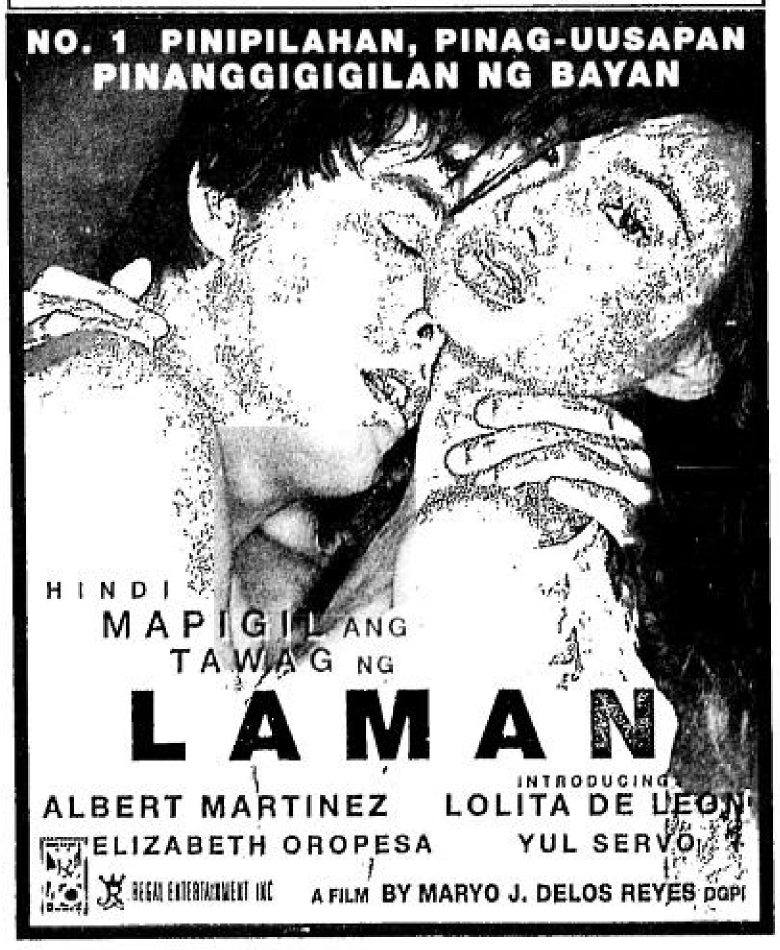
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gabriel byrne
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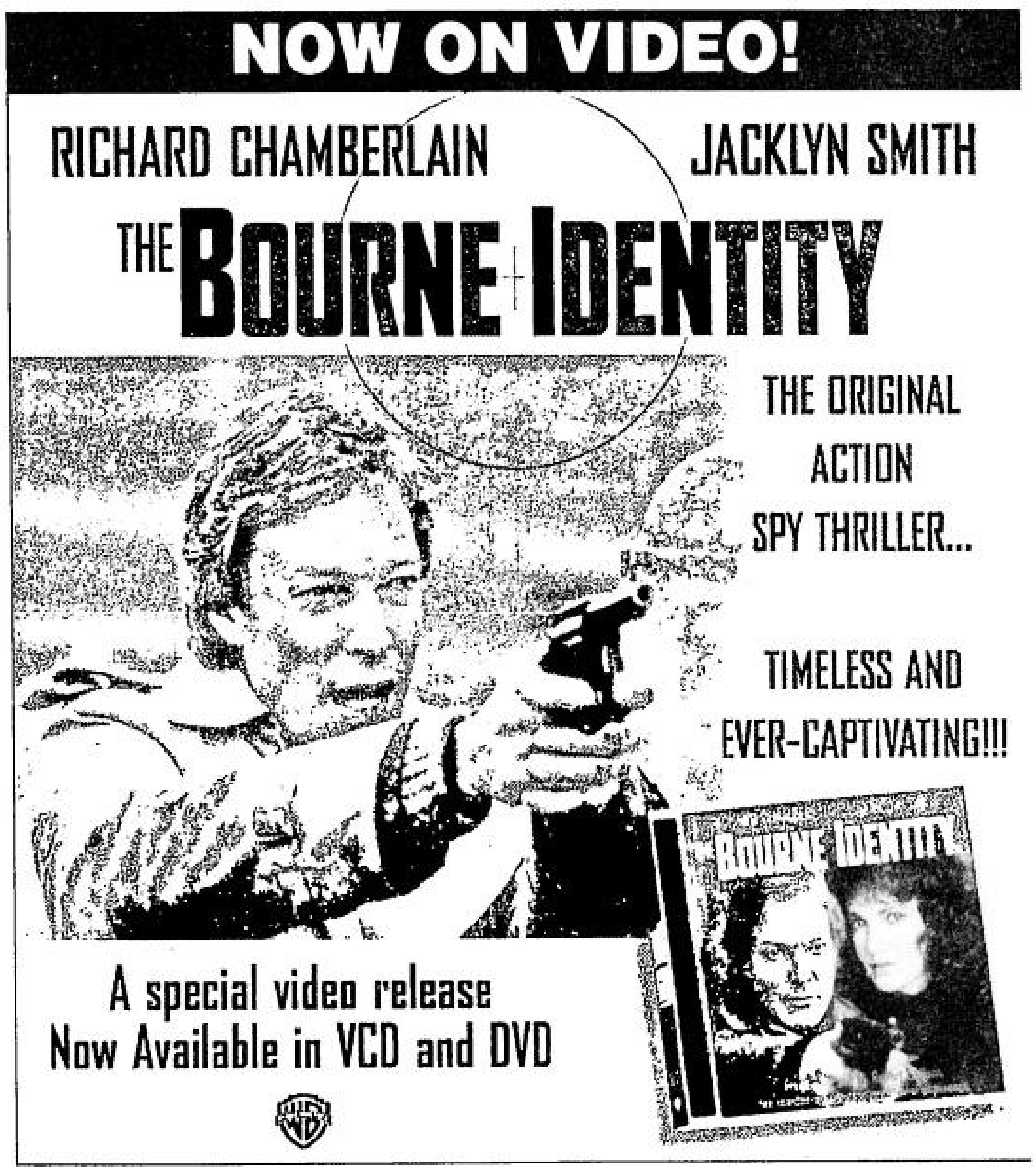
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ROBEN	BAKAT
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TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	BAD COMPANY / 13TH DAY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BAKAT
REMAR	BAKAT
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
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B	REIGN OF FIRE
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MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	REIGN OF FIRE
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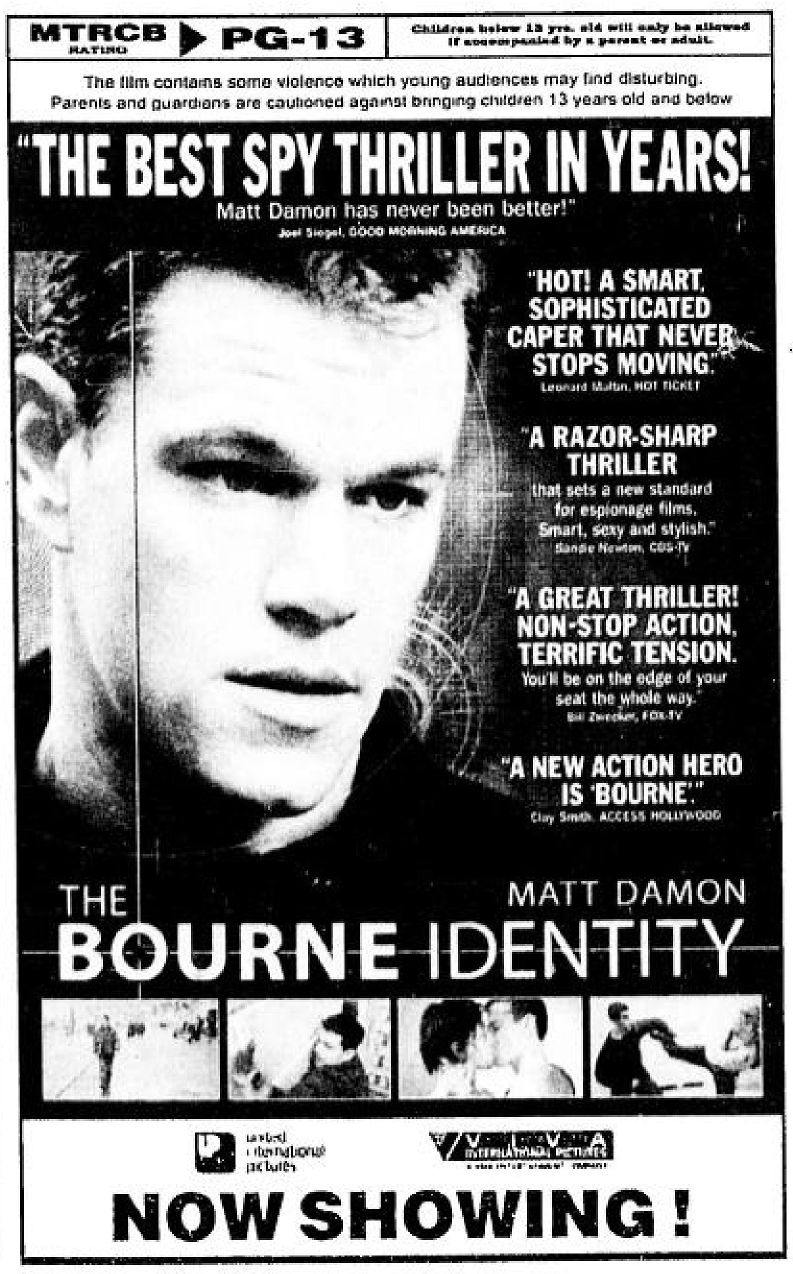
CINEMA-2	HIGH RISK
CINEMA-3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	BAKAT
CINEMA-7	YOUNG VIRGINS
CINEMA-8	AUSTIN POWERS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIVINE SECRET OF YAYA SISTERHOOD
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REVELATION
CINEMA-12	SIMONE
CINEMA-14	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-15	SIGNS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	[illegible]
CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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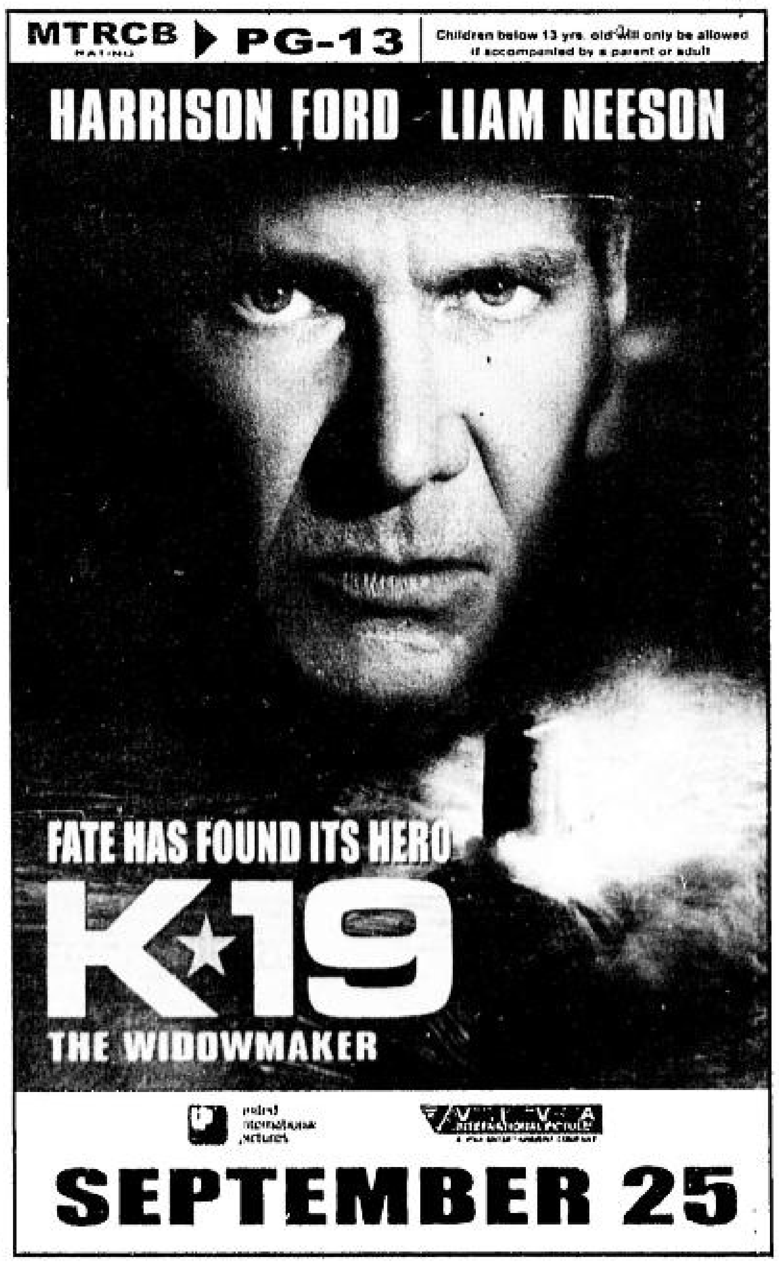
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HARRISON FORD LIAM NEESON
FATE HAS FOUND ITS HERO
K★19
THE WIDOWMAKER
united international pictures
SEPTEMBER 25

METRO

3 strikes you're out, MMDA enforcers warned

By Leila B. Salaverria

THREE strikes and you're out.

That is the policy the Metro Manila Development Authority will be implementing soon to rein in erring traffic enforcers.

According to MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel De Dios, traffic enforcers face sanctions if it is proven that they made three faulty apprehensions, based on the complaints of apprehended traffic violators.

De Dios said this is to ensure that no enforcer would abuse his power and catch motorists for extortion or harassment.

Drivers who believe they are wrongfully accosted may complain to the MMDA, and a hearing will be set.

The traffic enforcer and the complainant will then be summoned.

Should it be proven that there was no basis for the complainant's arrest, then the apprehending officer would be taken to task, Vergel De Dios said.

The traffic director also said that he has received complaints regarding ridiculous violations written on the citation receipts like "biting the red light" and "stepping on the line," but these are few and far between.

"There are really few enforcers who write things like that," De Dios said in a recent interview. "It's just that their mistakes are magnified. But we're training them."

Meanwhile, the MMDA is also set to put up emergency stations under flyovers.

Personnel manning the stations will respond to accidents and traffic complaints in the area, said De Dios.

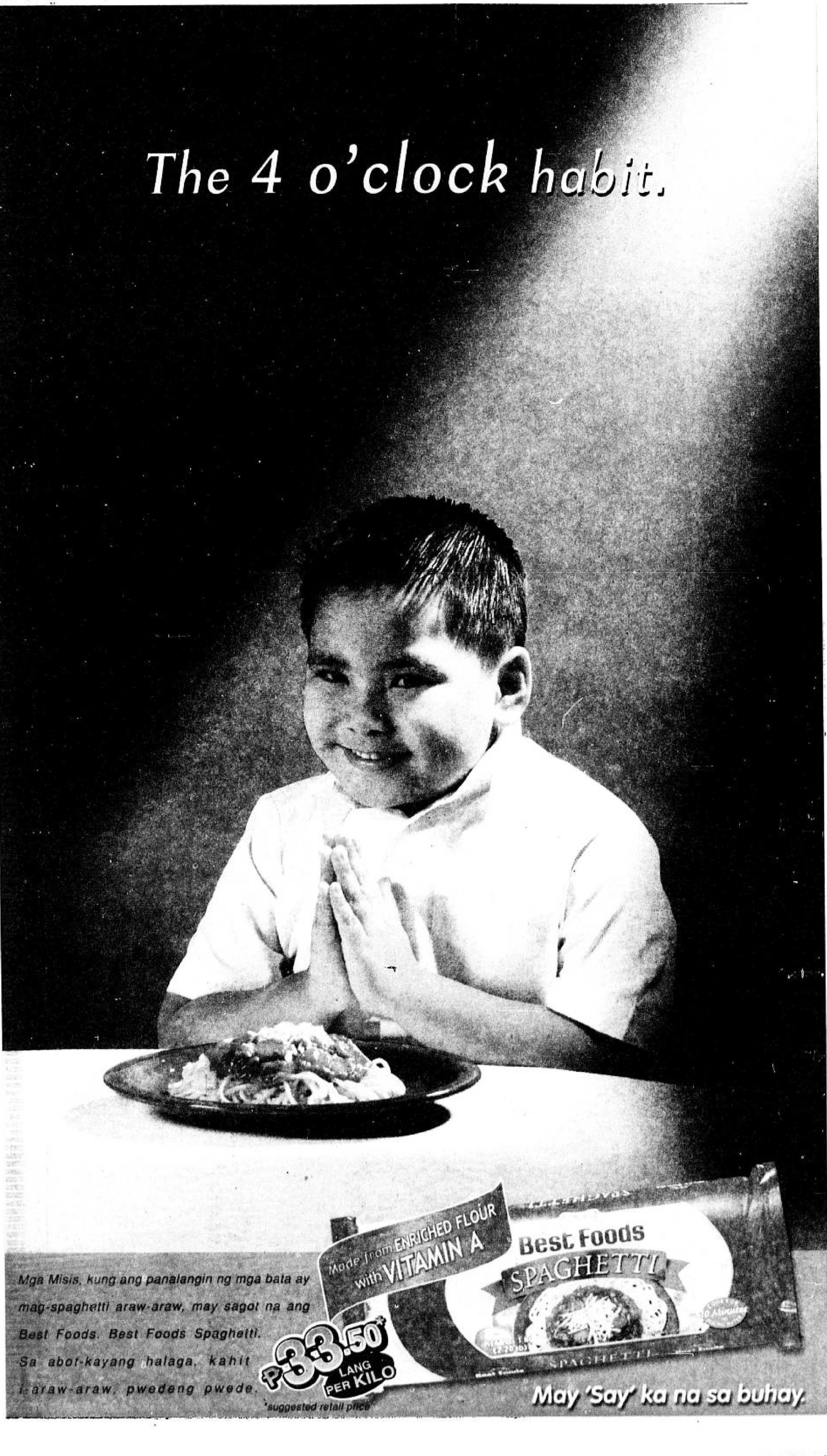
The stations will be equipped with mobile cars, motorcycles, wreckers and ambulances.

It will be open 24 hours a day and may be reached through Call Metro 136, a new number the MMDA is setting up for traffic and towing complaints.

Aside from these, the stations will also be "see-through."

"They would be made of glass so that the people passing by could see if the MMDA personnel inside are sleeping. Of course, there will be a separate sleeping area, but the work area can be seen from the outside," he said.

The stations will be completed before the end of the year, De Dios said.



Mga Misis, kung ang panalangin ng mga bata ay mag-spaghetti araw-araw, may sagot na ang Best Foods. Best Foods Spaghetti. Sa abot-kayang halaga, kahit i-araw-araw, pwedeng pwede.

*suggested retail price

May 'Say' ka na sa buhay.

Court allows Araneta firm to develop Pangarap lot

By Tina Santos

THE CALOOCAN City Regional Trial Court denied the writ of preliminary injunction which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Land Management Bureau filed against Carmel Development Inc., developer of the disputed 158-hectare Pangarap Village in Caloocan City.

Judge Adoracion Angeles of Caloocan RTC Branch 121 ruled that the DENR and LMB failed to establish the urgency of issuance of writ of preliminary injunction against CDI, which is owned by businessman Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III.

With this development, CDI chief executive officer Renato Faustino said the company "can now continue with the housing development of the controversial property, which is covered by the Memorandum of Agreement between Carmel, NHA, Housing and Urban Poor Development Coordinating Council and the Department of Interior and Local Government.

The MOA will provide for the on-site and off-site relocation points for the affected residents.

The court decision revealed that the reversion case which the government filed against CDI was merely "based on the alleged non-payment of the purchase price by a certain Paquita Eusebio, CDI's predecessor-in-interest."

It was gathered that during the cross examination, lawyer Arthur Tenazas of the LMB had reportedly admitted in open court that they have no solid evidence to prove the reversion case against the CDI.

Councilor wants Atienza to head flood task force

By Jerome Aning

ATIENZA

A MANILA councilor wants Mayor Lito Atienza to head a task force to formulate a comprehensive flood control program for the city to be in place when the next rainy season starts.

Councilor Eduardo Quintos XIV of the 4th district said City Hall should work with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to improve and modernize the capital's "complex and antiquated" sewerage system.

The President recently transferred flood control powers from the Department of Public Works and Highways to the MMDA.

Quintos, chair of the Council's appropriations committee, said the devolution is "most welcome."

But he added that "engineers, consultants and experts of the city who are knowledgeable on the intricacies ... of the city's sewerage system must be involved to guarantee its success."

Quintos said flooding in the capital continues to worsen every year because of the decrease in ground elevation in certain parts of the city, as experts pointed out.

Quintos said he believed the experts because the city sits on the ancient delta of the Pasig River.

Most of Manila, he added, was formed by the siltation of the Pasig and its numerous estuaries.

"It's a welcome relief that no matter how widespread the flooding may be, the waters always recede," he said. "The city's sewerage system continues to work but it needs to be improved to make it more efficient."

According to Quintos' proposed ordinance, the Manila Flood Control Task Force would be composed of all duly licensed engineers employed by the city government.

The mayor will serve as head while the city engineer will be the project manager.

The city engineer will submit a comprehensive flood control blueprint within a period of three months, from the time the task forces is formed.

The mayor, in turn, will submit the plan to the MMDA and coordinate its implementation.

The task force shall oversee and provide the auxiliary manpower.

The bill allocates P50,000 to finance the preparation of the flood control plan. The amount will be taken from the city treasury's unappropriated funds.

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more on the Lifestyle Section (pages 1, 3 and 5)

SATURDAY
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BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Survey says Filipinos see recovery in '03

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONSUMER confidence has remained sluggish in the Philippines as most Filipinos do not expect any recovery from the global recession to happen until next year at the earliest, according to the latest survey by regional think-tank ACNielsen.

In a press briefing yesterday, ACNielsen managing director for Southeast Asia Bienvenido Niles said that based on the company's survey covering people with Internet access, about 55 percent of Filipino consumers have deferred spending for the past six months. The ratio is slightly higher than the 51 percent average for 13 monitored countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Despite the improving macroeconomic indicators this year, the biggest concern of most Filipino respondents in the next six months were the worsening economy and job security, while less weight was given by most on other concerns like crime, terrorism or health.

The survey, which included the Philippines in the Asia-Pacific basket for the first time, was conducted from July 13-31 this year. About 90 percent of Filipino respondents was categorized by ACNielsen as coming from the ABC class, with the bulk from the upper C or middle-income bracket with monthly household income of P15,000-P30,000.

"In line with the expectation that the economy won't recover quickly, a lot of consumers have deferred spending," Niles said.

Specifically, 36 percent of the Filipino respondents deferred spending for rest and recreation in the form of extended holidays, higher than the 28 percent ratio in the Asia-Pacific. Thirty-two percent put off the purchase of car while 27 percent and 19 percent postponed spending for property and stocks/shares respectively.

The ratio for deferred car purchases was in line with the 32 percent level for Asia-Pacific but the ratio for property was higher than the regional ratio of 24 percent while ironically, the ratio of those who put off purchases of stocks was lower than the 26 percent for the region.

Niles said there must have been more appetite for bargain-hunting in the stock market among local investors because prices have sharply gone down.

The other countries included in the survey were Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Singapore and India.

Expectations of a recovery within a year varied significantly in the region, with the top three lowest percentages being posted by Indonesia (17 percent); Japan (22 percent), and Thailand (25 percent) while the highest were South Korea (69 percent); Singapore (70 percent) and India (73 percent).

In the Philippines, only 15 percent said they expected a recovery before the end of this year against the 14 percent for Asia-Pacific.

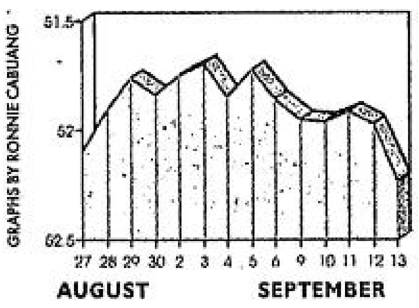
An overwhelming 89 percent of Filipinos said recovery could come by 2004 and beyond, although a majority said that some recovery might happen in the second half of next year at the earliest.

Of the Filipino respondents, 47 percent said a recovery was possible by the first half of 2003 and 62 percent by the second half.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 13, 2002

GOLD: $318.40/318.90
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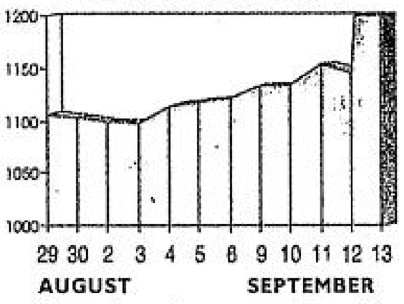
Sept. 13, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares up

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

PHILIPPINE stocks, led by beer giant San Miguel Corp., ended slightly higher yesterday as investors picked up select large caps despite concerns over a possible US strike on Iraq, analysts said.

The Philippine key index rose 10.06 points or 0.88 percent to 1,155.49 points.

"The correction on Thursday provided investors an opportunity to accumulate at lower prices," said BPI Securities stocks analyst Roberto Cano.

Value turnover dropped to P745.2 million from Thursday's P10.44 billion, which included a special block sale of San Miguel-A shares worth P9.62 billion.

Losers beat gainers by a slim 24 to 23 and there were 40 stocks unchanged.

"There are concerns like the threat of war in Middle East.

"If there's war in the Middle East, that would affect our exchange rate and oil prices would shoot up, which could impact on our domestic economy," said Henry Ong, vice president for sales at KGI securities.

US President George W. Bush failed to ease worries on a possible American attack on Iraq after he told the UN General Assembly on Thursday that "action will be unavoidable" against Iraq—accused by US officials of seeking to develop weapons of mass destruction.

"We see the market correcting by Monday since the index has hit the 1,155-resistance level. If it holds, our next target will be 1,170," Ong said.

San Miguel gained on news that SM Investments Corp., a firm allied to mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc., bought a 6.2-percent stake in the firm via Thursday's cross-sale to broaden its portfolio of investments in the Philippines.

"Investor interest in San Miguel picked up on reports that Henry Sy's SM Investments bought a stake in the company," BPI Securities' Cano said.

San Miguel-B shares , which are open to foreigners, rose 2.75 percent or P1.50 at P56.0.

San Miguel-A shares, which are restricted to Filipinos, ended 4 percent or P2 higher at P52.0.

Reuters

Peso weakens to 3-week low of 52.33 to $1

THE PESO yesterday tumbled to a three-week low of 52.33 against the US dollar before closing at 52.23 as some oil companies scrambled for dollars to hedge against a possible preemptive attack on Iraq by the United States.

Traders said that aside from jitters related to the US-led war against terrorism in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, there was some demand for the greenback arising from the importation season.

In the world market, crude oil prices have been rising in anticipation of the Iraqi attacks, prompting oil companies to beef up their inventories before prices go up further.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday assured that the depreciation of the local currency was but a temporary aberration arising from the Iraqi war but noted that the level would rebound soon.

"Basically, it is the flight to the dollar because of a fear of war with Iraq. This is temporary. When we go back to fundamentals, the peso will improve along with other currencies," he said.

A total of $144.4 million changed hands at the Philippine Dealing System yesterday.

The country's imports usually peak in the third quarter of each year as manufacturers build up inventory in time for the influx of the Christmas season.

During the week, these jitters and corpo-

PESO/ B2

RFM, UNI-PRESIDENT INAUGURATE P500-M PLANT

President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated the P500-million food plant of the RFM President Enterprises Corp. (RPEC) at the Philtown Industrial Estate in Tanauan, Batangas. RPEC is the joint venture of food and beverage giants RFM Corp. of the Philippines and Uni-President Enterprises Corp. of Taiwan. With the President during the food plant tour are RFM president and CEO Jose A. Concepcion III (second from left), RPEC business unit president Alex Lo (right), RFM chair Jose Concepcion Jr. (behind the President, right) and Gov. Mandanas of Batangas (left).

RP debt yields increasing

YIELDS on Philippine debt slightly eased in the secondary market yesterday on fears of a possible supply shortage following the government's rejection of bids at a bond auction early this week, traders said.

Dealers said done deal rates fell another 10 basis points after dropping by as much as 40 basis points early this week.

"Yields dropped by 10 basis points for some papers like the two- to five-years. Some banks are still buying government securities after the Treasury withdrew the offering for the four-year paper on Tuesday," a dealer from a local bank said.

"The rejection was a signal that the Treasury will not allow sharp upticks in interest rates," the dealer said.

A second trader said the two-year was done at 8.725 percent while the four-year was taken at 10.25 percent.

"The mood may be bullish but it is not mar-

RP/ B2

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US firms express concern over review of IPP deals

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AMERICAN investors in the country have expressed concern over the ongoing review of independent power producers' contracts with the National Power Corp. and have asked the government's cooperation toward forging a win-win solution.

In a position paper, the US-Asean Business Council told the Department of Energy last month that American power firms were "seeking solutions to what appears to be an emergency brought by the government's request this year to renegotiate IPP contracts."

The council said the firms, which had already faced serious challenges to their credibility due to alleged groundless accusations by interest groups, were increasingly finding themselves left out of the review process.

The government has reviewed the IPP contracts after militant and consumer groups have pointed to these contracts as the cause of high electricity costs.

"These companies seek to be brought in as partners, to work with the (government) and independent regulators, and to review and rationalize the current power situation in the Philippines," the council said.

The firms were sympathetic to the government's intentions to lower energy costs and want to be a part of any plan to accommodate their customers and consumers, it added.

The group said that breaking IPP contracts would put at great risk the prospects of successfully privatizing Napocor and earning favorable risk ratings for the country.

The council said it wanted to avoid allowing political pressures to do long-term harm to the climate of foreign investment in the country.

"US power sector companies would like to engage in serious, transparent and focused process with the goal or resolving issues and resuming normal operations," it said.

American power firms have invested an estimated $3.1 billion in the power industry as of 2001. The country's largest IPP is a subsidiary of Georgia-based Mirant Corp.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., in an Aug. 9 letter to the executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, said:

"We apologize if some of your members feel that they have been placed in a bad light after the results of the first phase of the IPP contract review was released."

Perez said the government considered the IPPs not as problems but as important partners in the development of a competitive energy sector.

The DOE, along with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., was assigned to review 22 contracts.

Of these, 11 passed the first phase of the review but have some financial issues that need to be addressed to ensure that government and the public "are not being financially prejudiced."

Another 11 contracts "may require renegotiation of the financial terms."

In July, Perez said the government would always honor the contracts, adding the government was inclined to unilaterally cancel, abrogate or renege on any of the contracts.

On Wednesday, Perez said the DOE would not be able to finish the second phase of the review by the end of the month. It is instead expected to be completed by October.

RP debt . . .

From page B1

ket-wide. Some banks are buying favored papers," said the second trader.

Traders said the market would likely look to the T-bill auction next week for further direction.

"T-bill rates will likely rise by 10 basis points across maturities and we think this is acceptable to the Treasury," a dealer said.

The benchmark 91-day T-bill paper fetched an average rate of 5.203 percent on Sept. 2 versus the previous 4.978 percent.

The 182-day rose to 6.186 percent from 5.851 percent previously while bids for the one-year paper were rejected. The one-year T-bill fetched at rate of 6.025 percent on Aug. 19.

On Friday, best-bid yields for three-month bills reached 5.375 percent; six-month at 6.45 percent; one-year at 7 percent; two-year bonds at 8.8 percent; three-year at 9.375 percent; four-year at 10.375 percent; five-year at 11.3 percent; seven-year at 12 percent; 10-year at 12.25 percent; 20-year at 14.25 percent; and 25-year at 14.75 percent. *Reuters*

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING WORKSHOP

South Korean Parliament member and International Cooperative Agricultural Organization president Won Churll-Hee (2nd from left) leads the Korean delegation to the workshop on "Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives in Rural Development" held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. Pangasinan Rep. Gener Tulagan met the delegates at the Naia on Wednesday.

Foreign investors await BW probe results

By Elena R. Torrijos

FOREIGN investors are keen on knowing the results of the investigation into the BW Resources stock fraud scandal that nearly caused the collapse of the stock market three years ago.

Chair Lilia Bautista of the Securities and Exchange Commission told reporters Thursday that during the government's roadshow in Singapore, many foreign fund managers and investors asked her about the status of the BW cases and if anyone had been put in jail since then.

Bautista said she replied that the legal cases against those allegedly behind the price manipulation of BW were proceeding and that the SEC had accepted monetary settlements in exchange for dropping administrative cases against brokers and individuals.

Officials from the SEC joined an inter-agency government delegation to Singapore and Hong Kong last week to meet with investors and drum up interest in the Philippines.

The SEC, in particular, talked about the reforms that have been set in place in the past two to three years that partly stemmed from the need to prevent another BW case from happening again.

The BW case centered on alleged widescale efforts by key cronies of former President Joseph Estrada and some brokers to jack up the price of BW Resources Corp., a little known gaming and leisure firm.

From the SEC's complaint-affidavits against more than 200 individuals and brokerage houses, the justice department has so far filed charges against only Erap crony Dante Tan and seven of his associates and brokers.

Since 2000, the SEC has filed three complaint-affidavits against those involved in alleged stock manipulation of BW Resources. The first two, which covered about 60 brokers and individuals, were the basis of the DOJ's indictments while the third was still the subject of a preliminary investigation by the department.

The SEC wanted to file a fourth complaint-affidavit but decided to enter into compromise settlements with 75 brokers and some 90 individuals amounting to nearly P20 million in exchange for dropping administrative sanctions. The fines for a broker or individual ranged from P5,000 to P2 million.

Prior to these complaint-affidavits, the Philippine Stock Exchange's compliance and surveillance group got the ball rolling with its controversial investigative report. The CSG report triggered the near collapse of the local stock market when the PSE investigators resigned en masse in protest of alleged moves to whitewash the report.

Krone sees copper, fiber cable sales rising 16.6%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

KRONE Communications Ltd., a global supplier of copper- and fiber-based cabling systems for telecommunications and data networks, expects sales to improve this year despite a slump in demand from fixed-line operators.

Krone country manager Larry G. Cunanan is forecasting sales to grow by 16.6 percent this year mainly due to the robust demand for cable wire and equipment from call center operators and local-area network (LAN) operations in offices and commercial buildings. Cunanan declined to state the company's actual sales figures.

He said the popularity of call centers had been a boon to Krone's business as their purchases more than made up for the declining demand for cable systems of telecommunication firms, as more Filipinos now prefer mobile phones to landlines. "Some of our clients tell us they are getting more disconnection than new applications every month which is why we are trying to develop new markets," Cunanan said.

Previously, Krone's AccessNET product, geared for telecommunication and network service providers, accounted for 70 percent of its Philippine sales. Cunanan said the business' share has gone down to 50 percent with sales to call center and LAN operations picking up the slack.

"More Filipino companies are spending money in LAN operation to integrate their office work or put up intelligent buildings," Cunanan said.

Krone offers PremisNET solutions for commercial enterprises using 100 Megabit and Gigabit Ethernet, ATM, video-conferencing, imaging and other multi-media applications.

Cunanan said Krone had been the industry leader in the connectivity solutions industry because of its innovative technology; its future-proof guarantee (its products could adopt to any technology change in the next 20 years); and its zero bit error rate delivery.

The German company has offices in Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines, as well as emerging markets such as Burma, Sri Lanka and Maldives. It produces its products in Australia, India, China and Indonesia.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, September 13, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18.5	17.75	18.5	18,140,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.50	48	47	48	700,400
China Banking Corp.	620.0	620	620	620	126,340
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	10,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.50	29	28.5	29	75,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34.00	34.5	34	34	63,800
Phil. Savings Bank	21.00	21	21	21	69,000
Security Bank Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	51,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	270,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1175	175	1175	1175	230
Sun Life Financial Serv.	900 0	905	900	905	510
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.5400	.54	.54	.54	100,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	520.0	520	520	520	600
ISM Communications Inc.	.0270	.027	.026	.026	3,000,000
Piltel	.2800	.28	.28	.28	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	297.5	305	295	300	116,000
Ivantage Corp.	.3100	.31	.31	.31	20,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	.0120	.012	.011	.012	13,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	18.50	18.75	18.5	18.5	3,300
Manila Electric Co. "B	31.00	31.5	30.5	31.5	126,700
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	1,746,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.78	10,261,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.8800	.88	.88	.88	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.20	1.2	1.2	1.2	523,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.46	2.42	.2.46	1,172,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	.5500	.55	.55	.55	100,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.60	3.6	3.6	3.6	94,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.2600	.28	.24	.28	80,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	.0800	.08	.08	.08	270,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	1,053,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.00	31	31	31	9,000
RFM Corp.	.7900	.81	.79	.81	1,250,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	50.00	52	49.5	52	245,500
San Miguel Corp. "B"	54.50	56.5	54.5	56	626,700
Vitarich Corp.	.3200	.32	.32	.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg "A"	.4400	.44	.43	.43	30,000
Ayala Corp.	5.40	5.4	5.3	5.4	2,493,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.42	2.44	2.42	2.44	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.5000	.5	.5	.5	680,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0060	.0065	.006	.0065	46,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.70	2.75	2.7	2.75	31,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	.1250	.125	.125	.125	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	.2600	.28	.26	.27	13,30,000
A. Brown Co. Inc.	.5000	.5	.5	.5	10,000
Southeast Asian Cement	.0600	.06	.06	.06	1,200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.1700	.18	.17	.18	390,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.5	1,138,300
House of Investments Inc.	.5000	.5	.5	.5	100,000
Ionics Inc.	4.60	4.6	4.6	4.6	47,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.38	1.38	1,550,000
Megaworld Corp.	.5800	.59	.58	.59	110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.2700	.27	.27	.27	1,220,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	.0850	.085	.085	.085	400,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.00	4	4	4	164,000
Roxas Holdings Corp.	.7200	.72	.72	.72	250,000
Solid Group Inc.	.3100	.31	.31	.31	460,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION AND TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	10,000
PICOP Resources Inc.	.0500	.0525	.05	.0525	800,000
Pryce Corp.	.0950	.095	.095	.095	1,000,000
HOTEL, CREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.3500	.38	.35	38	2,320,000
Fairmonth Holdings Inc.	.4400	.44	.44	.44	80,000
Manila Jockey Club	7.50	7.8	7.5	7.5	23,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	.1200	.12	.12	.12	280,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.50	24.5	24.5	24.5	599,200
DMCI Holdgs Inc.-Pref.	730.0	730	730	730	114,520
PLDT 10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.90	6	5.9	5.9	1,372,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	.3500	.35	.35	.35	2,080,000
C&P Homes Inc.	.1900	.19	.19	.19	40,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.1400	.145	.14	.145	670,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.1800	.18	.18	.18	1,600,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	7,545,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.92	1.94	350,000
Keppel Phils. Inc.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	280,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	.0300	.05	.05	.05	2,900,000
SM Development Corp.	1.00	1.04	1	1.02	447,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.70	5.7	5.7	5.7	585,000
MINING					
Philex Mining Corp. A	.3000	.3	.3	.3	330,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	.3100	.31	.31	.31	180,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	.0028	.0026	.0026	.0026	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	.0026	.0026	.0026	.0026	1,000,000
The Phildrill Corp. A	.1500	.15	.15	.15	130,000
Sinophil Corp.	.0300	.03	.03	.03	500,000
South China Resources Inc.	.5000	.5	.5	.5	120,000

Peso weakens . . .

From page B1

rate requirements have caused the peso to shed 37 centavos or 0.7 percent of its value from its closing Friday last week even as the local stock market gained 3 percent week-on-week.

The peso is expected to face more pressures next week and test the next resistance at 52.40, traders said, especially since interest rates were likely to be kept neutral by monetary authorities as the inflation rate has remained benign.

For its part, the Bangko Sentral kept its hands off the market yesterday, especially since most other currencies in the region like the Thai baht and Indonesian rupiah likewise lost ground.

Despite the weakness of the local currency, the market expects that the low interest rate environment will not be reversed.

Equitable PCI Bank chief strategist Michael Ricafort said: "From a risk management point of view, the major upside risks to consider for Philippine interest rates could be the market's anticipation for the release of the latest eight-month budget deficit as early next week."

Based on technical analysis, Ricafort said the initial resistance for the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate was at 5.25-5.5 percent, consistent with the cap indicated by the Bureau of Treasury.

In the last auction on Sept. 2, the 91-day T-bill rate inched up by 0.225 percent to 5.203 percent. *Doris Dumlao*

CURRENCIES

Sept. 13, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.017812	1.000000	51.8980
Japan	Yen	0.008477	0.008329	0.4323
United Kingdom	Pound	1.589720	1.561900	81.0595
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130491	0.128207	6.6537
Switzerland	Franc	0.680447	0.668539	34.6958
Canada	Dollar	0.641424	0.630199	32.7061
Singapore	Dollar	0.578367	0.568246	29.4908
Australia	Dollar	0.560809	0.550995	28.5955
Bahrain	Dinar	2.699909	2.652661	137.6678
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271402	0.266652	13.8387
Brunei	Dollar	0.577482	0.567376	29.4457
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000112	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023977	0.023557	1.2226
UAE	Dirham	0.277129	0.272279	14.1307
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000839	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.982500	50.9898
Argentina	Real	0.281163	0.276243	14.3365
Brazil	Real	0.327165	0.321440	16.6821
Denmark	Kroner	0.134658	0.132301	6.8662
India	Rupee	0.021038	0.020670	1.0727
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267881	0.263193	13.6592
Mexico	New Peso	0.102088	0.100301	5.2054
New Zealand	Dollar	0.482444	0.474001	24.5997
Norway	Kroner	0.135962	0.133583	6.9327
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017221	0.016920	0.8781
South Africa	Rand	0.097194	0.095493	4.9559
Sweden	Kroner	0.108512	0.106613	5.5330
Syria	Pound	0.023027	0.022624	1.1741
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029665	0.029146	1.5126
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000705	0.000693	0.0360

Stocks fall after Fed's Greenspan speaks

SINGAPORE—Stocks fell in Asia and the dollar weakened on Friday after a slide on Wall Street, pressured by a huge increase in the US current account deficit and Fed chairman Alan Greenspan's sobering comments about the economy.

US President George W. Bush's ringing challenge for decisive action to disarm Iraq had little direct impact on the dollar, but added to the fears and anxieties that have gripped the share markets for weeks.

Bush said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had flouted a decade of demands from the United Nations by developing weapons of mass destruction. He warned the UN General Assembly that "action will be unavoidable" against Iraq unless the United Nations enforced resolutions requiring Baghdad to disarm.

But he said the United States would work with other members of the UN Security Council on a new resolution.

Greenspan said the US economy has weathered shocks from falling stock markets, lower investment and the Sept. 11 attacks, but he warned that a swift return to government spending discipline was vital.

Stock markets found little comfort in either speech. The mood was not helped by downbeat economic reports and dour brokerage calls on the key semiconductor equipment sector and leading firms such as McDonald's Corp. and Sun Microsystems.

"Every rally in God knows how long has failed and that is discouraging," said Uri Landesman, portfolio manager at Arlington Capital Management. "We won't rally until a few companies start telling us things are improving and orders are getting better. We're not getting that."

The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average lost 2.35 percent to 8,379.41. The broad Standard & Poor's 500 slid 2.48 percent, to 886.91 and the technology-packed Nasdaq Composite Index fell 2.72 percent to 1,279.68. Trading volume was thin.

The dollar was on the defensive after a sharp increase in the quarterly US current account deficit and a spike in US jobless data for the week ended Sept. 7 to a four-month high.

Oil prices fell 3 percent in the US overnight on the belief that Bush's speech signaled a deferral, at least for a while, of military action against Iraq. But by 0200 GMT on Friday, crude futures contracts for October had risen 9 cents in Asian trade on the electronic NYMEX exchange.

Tokyo stocks faltered in early trade on Friday, with Wall Street's fall prompting profit taking in major blue chips such as Sony Corp. after a four-day rally.

"The chip sector and other major tech issues here are a sell after such a steep fall on the Nasdaq," said Koichi Seki, equity manager at Chuo Securities.

At 0130 GMT, the tech-sensitive Nikkei index was off 1.76 percent at 9,249.18, while the broader Topix had shed 1.39 percent to 907.42.

In the Tokyo currency market, traders said they were closing long-dollar positions, partly because of media reports that the US National Association of Manufacturers had blamed an overvalued dollar for the ballooning current account deficit.

The yen was not looking robust either, amid signs of slowing growth in Japan. The European Central Bank's decision to leave rates unchanged helped brake the dollar's slide against the euro.

By 0150 GMT, the dollar was buying 119.81 yen, falling from 120.10 in late US trade, while the euro was trading at $0.9813 against $0.9822 in late New York trade.

Australian stocks fell 0.7 percent at the open over the global jitters, but safe-haven gold mining stocks moved higher. *Reuters*

Japan bankruptcies down 3.1% in Aug.

TOKYO—The number of bankruptcies in Japan fell 3.1 percent in August from a year earlier, but failures could rise faster when companies tally mid-year earnings later in September, a research firm said on Friday.

Independent research firm Teikoku Databank said 1,562 companies failed in August with debts totaling 1.06 trillion yen ($8.83 billion), the second highest amount for any August in the postwar period.

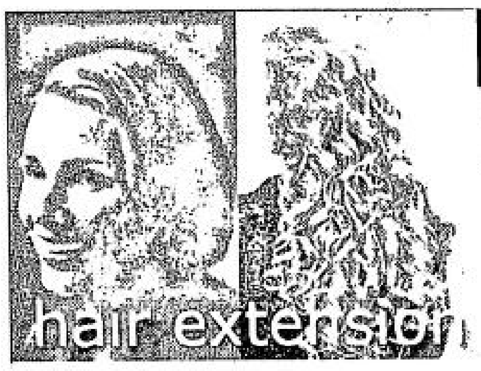
The number of bankruptcies was an improvement from July, when more companies went bankrupt than in any other month this year, but Teikoku saw little reason to celebrate.

"Financial institutions could step up efforts to clear off a number of small to medium-sized firms burdened by poor earnings for the half year ending in September," it said.

"Despite fluctuations in the number of bankruptcies, the general trend will show the overall figure increasing."

The number of bankruptcies has fallen on a year-on-year basis for three of the last four months, but total debt from those failures has risen for 10 straight months.

The cloudy economic outlook, coupled with pressure from regulators, who are getting tougher on bad loan classifications, puts more pressure on banks to get their house in order by refusing to roll over loans to weak borrowers. *Reuters*



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Streetball Challenge: fun in and out of the court

UNDOUBTEDLY, our country is a big fan of basketball. It comes as no surprise that as early as 10 a.m., Cebuanos flocked to the makeshift basketball area at the SM Cebu activity center to witness the Adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 National Finals. Schools from the NCR, Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao finally meet and collide in the two-day street basketball fest for the seniors, women's, juniors and midgets championships. Students from the University of the Southern Philippines, Saint Louis University, PUP, Small World Christian School, University of San Carlos, to name a few, were busy chatting excitedly, eyeing the competition, polishing their spankin' Adidas shoes, flexing their muscles or simply pretending to be cool and collected despite the excited and nervous buzz in the air. Adidas executives John Alonte, Angeliza Suiza and Goody Custodio warmly welcomed everyone as they explained Adidas' goal in starting the students young in sports by providing venues to showcase their talents and help build their confidence.

The press had a field day rooting for players who showed extraordinary skills and charisma in court. Felix Carmelo Pepito, an 11-year-old student from Ateneo de Davao, wowed the audience every time he made a 3-point shot. He would seem perplexed every time the media group would call his name. He was a small wonder indeed, the team captain of his group considering he was the smallest at 4'9". Gabriel Sia, 15, from Xavier School delighted the crowd with his shooting skills, not to mention the hearts of some gals with his baby face looks. We all had a laugh when the theme from Sesame Street was played as background music during the play-offs. Probably to remind the players to be good, not to play dirty and have loads of fun.

Paolo Bediones and Miriam Quiambao provided the breather as they facilitated the free throw shootout joined in by the best shooters from the different schools. Endless Adidas products were handed out to winners. Paolo got the crowd at the pal of his hands, joking left and right. When one player failed his first shot, he'd massage his back and say, "*Konting masahe pa para ma*-shoot." Or when a youngster wanted a kiss from Miriam, Paolo, ever the protective gentleman, exclaimed, "*Ang bata-bata mo pa,* kiss *na ang inaatupag mo*." Protective or just jealous of his on-screen TV partner? Hmm. A media 3-on-3 was also held. The awarding ceremonies made all the winners beam from ear to ear as they proudly held their trophies and cash prizes. Irene Cahilig from UST was seen mouthing to herself, "*Ako na naman?*" when her name was announced for the MVP Award.

The *despedida* party held at Waterfront Hotel gave the chance for the players and their coaches to relax and unwind after the two-day street basketball fest. Players from St. Louis High School Philex presented an Igorot dance while Xavier School danced the Bubble Gang Way. A cake was also brought in to celebrate the birthday of John Alonte, president of Adidas Philippines. Marco Yulo, 13, from La Salle Greenhills shyly dance while Adeline Tuayon, 17, from Western Mindanao State University, danced to her heart's content. Her team's motto for their game was Do or Die. Who would have thought she'd also employ the same motto when it came to having fun on the dance floor?

So many stories for so little time together – one player from Xavier School blamed himself when he failed the tie-breaking shoot out, while the UST team from the seniors division celebrated their loss even before the competition started. Others had a towel party inside their rooms or sang to their hearts' content on the hotel's videoke channel while some played just for fun while others trained for future games. As what Matthew Sia, a 13-year-old player from La Salle Greenhills and Glenda Ampatuan, a 19-year-old from Western Mindanao State University shared, the most exciting part of the Adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 was staying in a hotel with their respective teams, enjoying good food and making most of the opportunities in their young lives. Simple pleasures and they're thankful for all of these.

Congratulations to all the winners. For the midgets division: La Salle Greenhills headed by team captain and MVP awardee Nicolas Salva. Juniors division: Ateneo de Davao headed by team captain and MVP awardee Aaron Medina. Seniors division: University of Visayas headed by team captain and MVP awardee Joseph Ronald Quinahan. Womens division: UST headed by team captain and MVP awardee Irene Cahilig. Winners from the seniors and girls division represented the Philippines in the Adidas Asian Streetball Finals 2002 on Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 in Shanghai, China.

PLDT DONATES UP LECTURE HALL

PLDT recently donated a multimedia lecture hall to the University of the Philippines-Diliman campus in line with its convergence program. PLDT president and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan, center, and Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, UP chancellor, left, cut the ceremonial ribbon during the formal turnover rites. Witnessing the rites, from left, are Dr. Francisco Nemenzo, UP president, Butch Melly, VP for PLDT, Butch Jimenez, VP for media and corporate communication, PLDT, Antonio R. Samson, MediaQuest president, and Marivic Rufino of the PLDT Foundation.

MotivationAsi
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UPBEAT ON M-COMMERCE

Smart Communications Inc. personal communications and mobile services division head Anastacio R. Martirez receives a plaque of appreciation from Alegria S. Limjoco, chair of the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), after discussing the prospects of mobile commerce during a conference at Edsa Shangri-La Aug. 9. Speaking before a crowded ballroom during the 11th National Retail and Conference & Stores Asia 2002, Martirez enjoined businesses to embrace new technologies, particularly M-commerce, to meet the increasing demands of sophisticated consumers. Smart is offering services which run on a mobile commerce platform, such as the award-winning Smart Money electronic wallet card and mobile banking services. A versatile M-commerce solution, Smart Money can be utilized for B2C (business to consumer) and B2B (business to business) applications, as well as for B2E (business to employee) uses. Also shown is Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association Inc. president Steven T. Cua.

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METAPHIL NOW ISO CERTIFIED

Metaphil, a division of the Aboitiz Construction Group, has been awarded an ISO 9001:2000 certification by the TUV product and management services after successfully completing a compliance audit in three of its facilities. The audit of the Metaphil Quality Management System on general building and engineering/industrial construction and steel fabrication was conducted in Metaphil's Limketkai Project in Cagayan de Oro, its Cebu main office and Makati office. Metaphil specializes in electro-mechanical and civil projects on a design, installation or turnkey basis. Shown is Metaphil CEO and chair Roberto Aboitiz and Quality Management representative August Dacanay (2nd and 3rd from left) receiving the certification from TUV Cebu office manager and management systems auditor Lui Restauro. Also shown are Metaphil president and COO Nap Pe Jr (2nd from right) and Metaphil vice chair Charlie Ng.

Johnnie Walker story inspires personal progress

IT IS A FACT that consumers will pay a significant premium for branded products, going to considerable lengths to buy the brands they have come to know and trust.

These brands hardly need any introduction. They speak for themselves with a voice that heralds their heritage of quality, consistency and marketing acumen. When the world has decided a brand has accomplished these, it is elevated into a Superbrand.

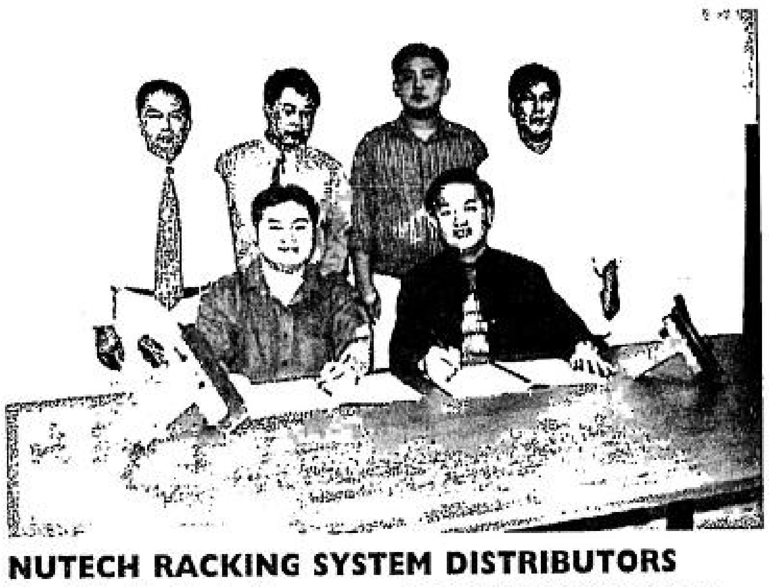
An example of a Superbrand, one of the very first, is Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky, which traces its beginnings to a small shop in Kilmarnock, Scotland. Here, a man named John Walker sold groceries, wines and spirits. He laid the foundation for Johnnie Walker's success by ingeniously pioneering the brand's iconic, distinctive attributes: a square bottle to distinguish it from the other beverages at the bar, a slanted label and the "J Walker" signature. Working with cartoonist Tom Browne, they also created the Striding Man icon which symbolized the brand long before other companies conjured their own registered trademarks to make consumers identify with their brand.

Insights from consumers around the world reveal that Johnnie Walker is a brand that fits naturally with the concept of progress and leadership. This makes the Striding Man (he with the determined, vigorous gait) a poster model perfectly personifying, as well as inspiring, achievement and progress.

The commercial triumph of Johnnie Walker has consolidated Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky's Superbrand status in the Western world, and certainly, in the Philippines. Here, surveys show that men belonging to the AB socio-economic bracket purchase Johnnie Walker for personal pleasure, or as a gift for similarly accomplished friends or business associates.

As young professionals today cite that the fundamental reason for liquor consumption is to celebrate success, so too do they draw inspiration from Johnnie Walker's "Keep Walking" campaign, a global campaign that encourages men to achieve their dreams. Given its heritage of quality and its leadership stance, Johnnie Walker is the perfect accompaniment when toasting moments of hard earned success.

The distinct flavor of Johnnie Walker, blended with its rich heritage and reinforced by creatively contrived campaigns that connect with its consumers, has elevated it into one of the world's most recognizable brands. The visionary John Walker's ambitious goal nearly two centuries ago, "To make our whisky of such quality that nothing in the market shall come before it," has become a reality, as well as an inspiring testament to the glory of achievement for men all over the world.



NUTECH RACKING SYSTEM DISTRIBUTORS

Nutech Machine Design & Engineering SDN BHD recently entered into an agreement with Lee Commercial Equipment Inc. (LCEI) to exclusively distribute Nutech Racking System in the Philippines. LCEI currently distributes Clark Forklifts and the acquisition of Nutech Racking System will strengthen its position in the material handling business. Present during the contract signing are (seated, left) Irwin Tieng, LCEI president, and Mo Choon Kong (seated, right), managing director of Nutech Machine Design. Standing, from left, are engineer Joselito Guiao, LCEI marketing manager, Romy Sanchez, LCEI operations manager, Herbert Siy and John Garcia, LCEI marketing officers.

RCBC VALUES CHAMPION SILVER AWARDEES

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) recently held its second Values Champion Silver Awards at the Bankard head office in Pasig City. The award recognizes employees for their exemplary conduct in showing the bank's five core values. Shown are the awardees together with RCBC's senior officers (first row, from left) RCBC's John Alvin Mendoza, treasury MIS officer (sense of urgency), RCBC Savings Bank's Mary Grace Alaban, teller, and Nimfa Gregorios, business center manager of Jalandoni business center (teamwork), RCBC's Marissa Dimacuha, customer service assistant teller, Batangas business center (integrity), RCBC's Angeli Ramos, account officer of commercial lending division (customer orientation), Bankard's Mylene Jocson, compliance and quality assurance division head (professionalism), and Bankard's Karlo Gonzales, credit and collection division head (sense of urgency). Shown second row, from left, are EVP Jose F. Santos, commercial banking group head, RCBC, president and CEO Francisco S. Magsajo Jr., RCBC Savings Bank, president and COO Valentin A. Araneta, RCBC, president and CEO Joven D. Reyes, Bankard Inc., and EVP Jaime F. Panganiban, financial markets group head, RCBC.

MERIDIAN TELEKOMS AT 4AS AD SUMMIT

Meridian Telekoms Inc., the country's leader in wireless broadband Internet connectivity, joined the recent Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies (4As) Advertising Summit. Meridian Telekoms, the official technology partner of the event, teamed up with Microwarehouse Inc., the country's premier distributor of Palm products and top networking equipment, and MDI, the leading systems integrator in the country, in providing high-speed Internet access to the 4As Ad Summit delegates and the media. Shown is the Meridian Telekoms marketing team headed by Jonathan Lee (left), marketing manager and Kookie P. Alabarza (3rd from left), marketing specialist with Cheng Alejandro and Michelle Cabral proudly representing the company during the 4As Ad Summit.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang ◎ Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Pros (and cons) of eating GM foods

By Charles E. Buban

BOXING bouts usually end in a draw when the contenders are evenly matched. If we could only do the same for the two opposing groups on the issue of genetically modified foods. Both camps show no sign of pause as they wage a seemingly endless battle on whether GM foods are safe for human consumption.

The issue is a tough call for consumers, too. Gut reaction would usually be against GM foods although not much evidence has been found proving that they really are harmful. Ardent opponents—and advocates—of genetic engineering have yet to sway mainstream consumers and retailers to their respective arguments.

While the battle rages on, few people realize that GM foods are already pervasive in the food chain. Experts say as much as 60 percent of processed foods in grocery stores contain modified corn, soy and canola ingredients. In fact, we've been eating this stuff for about 10 years already.

GM foods contain plant or animal ingredients whose genetic materials were modified (through genetic engineering) so that they would possess certain characteristics like faster growth, pest or disease resistance, high yield, improved nutritional value and quality and survivability in drought, flood or frost.

According to Nina Cloriani Barzaga, director of UP Manila's Institute of Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, major issues have been raised against GM foods and several organizations, including the World Health Organization, UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development as well as national academies of science of various countries, are assessing their safety.

"These organizations have come to the conclusion that all crop production technologies, and that includes GMs and non-GMs, are capable of producing unsafe foods. In fact, some studies show that organic foods may even contain more fungal toxins than foods produced through biotechnology," she said.

Harmless foods

"Meat, milk and eggs from animals fed with GM foods are just as harmless as if they had come from animals fed with conventional foods," assured Barzaga.

She added that there are regulatory systems in place to assure the safety of these products.

"The food safety assessment for biotechnology products is more rigorous than for other crop production technologies. In terms of nutritional composition and effects on animal feedings, there is no significant difference between GM feeds and those that don't have GMO," she said.

Francisco Buencamino, executive director of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. (Pampi), noted that there is "a lot of ambiguity about GMO in people's minds" and his group would like to clear some issues about it.

Pampi is an agribusiness group composed of 38 companies including Jollibee, McDonalds, Purefoods, Swift, Pacific Meat, CDO-Foodsphere and Virginia Foods.

The business of meat processing employs GM soya, a bulking agent and emulsifier in 70 percent of processed products. Soya foods include tofu, tempeh, miso, TVP (textured vegetable protein), soy sauce, soya oil and margarine, soya flour and soya dairy alternatives.

"We adhere to the government's policy of promoting the safe and responsible use of biotechnology in the manufacture of our food products. Our products do not pose health risks and are safe for consumption," assured Buencamino.

People who back the cultivation of GM crops claim that the technology will transform agriculture for the better, giving man the ability to "design" crops to meet his needs. It means that food will taste better, last longer and become more nutritious.

GM crops are also being presented as a sustainable solution to the problem of food security for the world's growing population.

GM crops are widely grown in the world. According to last year's preliminary findings of an FAO survey, the total area cultivated with GMO crops is estimated at 44.2 million hectares (up from 11 million hectares in 1998). About 75 percent of this area can be found in industrialized countries.

Four crops

Large-scale cultivation generally involves four crops: soybean, corn, cotton and canola. About 16 percent of the total area planted to these crops is now under GM varieties, and two traits—insect resistance and herbicide tolerance—dominate.

There are also small areas of potato and papaya, with inserted genes for delayed ripening and virus resistance.

Only seven developing countries cultivate GMO crops commercially, with most of the areas involved (except in Argentina and China) being smaller than 100,000 hectares. Again, the dominant crops are soybean and cotton, and the traits are herbicide tolerance and insect resistance. Only China is using a locally developed and commercialized GM crop (cotton).

"One of the most pressing problems relates to feeding the world's ever increasing population while minimizing the impact of agriculture on the environment. All documented research works on gene technology for agriculture have been proven beneficial for increased production of crops that countries such as ours need," said Buencamino.

The idea of transplanting genes has panicked many environmental and health activists. Greenpeace calls GM foods "biological pollution."

Most opposition to GM foods stems from the concern that "natural" plants could be changed forever—perhaps for the worse—when exposed to pollen from modified crops. Opponents also fear that people and animals that consume GM foods could develop health problems.

GENETICALLY
MODIFIED

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Environmentalists say there is a need for caution in introducing GM foods into the market. They disagree with industry claims that GM crops can be controlled and have expressed fears that GM plants will change ecosystems forever with negative effects on plants, insects, birds and humans.

Some small-scale farmers and food producers are concerned that food production will become more and more controlled by a few large companies.

"The public is wary. We cannot know for sure how eating GM foods will affect our health in years to come," said Beau Baconguis, Greenpeace Genetic Engineering campaigner for the Philippines.

"GM technology is still in its infancy and research on any direct or indirect impact is far from conclusive," Baconguis said.

Greenpeace wants the enactment of laws that would require labeling of GM foods. It also wants all GM foods to be tested and not simply accepted under a certifying agency's approval.

"Our issue is not against biotechnology per se," Baconguis said. "Our fundamental position is that consumers should have all the information they need to make an informed choice about the foods they buy."

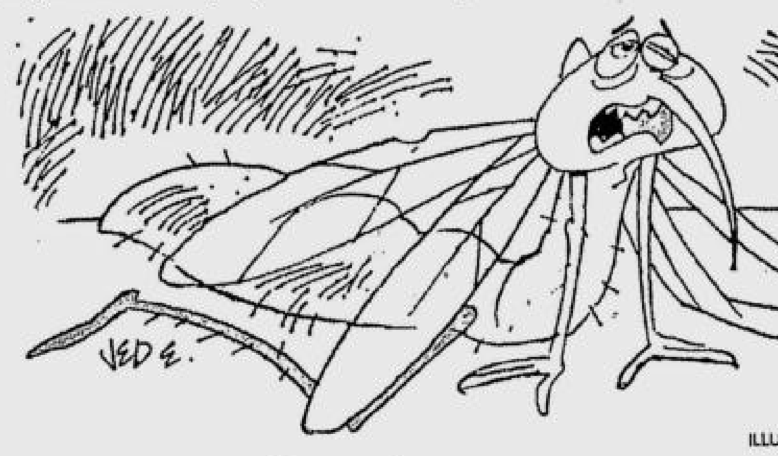


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Experts find new weapon against pesky mosquitoes

VERO BEACH, Florida—Biologists are calling them the "perfect diet pill" for mosquitoes—yeast granules laced with a naturally occurring hormone that starves them to death before they grow big enough to bite.

The larvicide, which could hit the commercial market next year, holds promise as a powerful and environmentally safe new weapon against mosquitoes that spread a host of illnesses such as West Nile, dengue fever and malaria.

"It's a perfect diet pill. In four to six days they're all going to starve to death," said Dov Borovsky, the biochemist who developed it at the University of Florida's Medical Entomology Laboratory in Vero Beach.

Killing larva in the water is the most efficient way to halt the spread of mosquito-borne diseases because once the adults start flying around, "it's a shot in the dark," Borovsky said.

All pesticides used against adult mosquitoes are neurotoxins. Although regulators insist they're safe, residents of neighborhoods targeted for spraying sometimes balk and health officials consider them a weapon of last resort.

The University of Florida researchers were looking for a mosquito birth control pill when they discovered the hormone trypsin modulating oostatic factor, or TMOF.

It is produced in mosquito ovaries and they thought it worked by halting the development of the eggs. They extracted it from thousands of mosquito ovaries, synthesized it in the lab and injected it back into female mosquitoes.

When they later cut the mosquitoes open, they found the insects' bellies full of blood, which would normally be digested quickly to nourish developing eggs. The experts realized that what they had found was something that switched off the mosquitoes' digestive system.

"The female has a natural hormone that controls the digestion of blood. Without the blood they cannot produce eggs...hence they become sterile," Borovsky said.

The hormone had the same effect on mosquito larva, switching off the digestive system and starving them to death.

Borovsky said the hormone kills all varieties of mosquitoes they've tested it on—there are some 3,000 species. It works in salt and clear water, does not harm the environment or other species and is safe enough to use in drinking water containers. *Reuters*

FAMILY HEALTH MATTERS
by Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan

CHOOSING WHAT MEDICINE WORKS BEST FOR YOU

It's always good to be a buddy to our body. After all, it is the only one we've got.

I make it a point to tune in on what my body is trying to tell me. Fatigue simply means I should not overextend myself anymore as my body needs to rest and recharge. Allergies mean my system does not agree with something in my environment or with what I have just ingested. Fever is my body's way of saying I have some kind of illness or infection brewing inside of me.

Understanding our body signals helps us function better. And so, it pays to be sensitive to how our body reacts to outside stimuli, to things we do and to anything we take in...especially medicines.

The question to ask is – are all headache medicines safe to take?

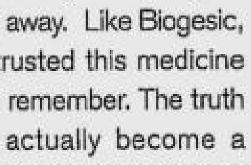
As a rule, I am very careful about the medicines I take or give to my family, having grown up with a mom who was concerned about their possible side effects.

Take, for example, headache relievers. There are a variety of them in the market today – in various forms, colors and generic names. They come in different degrees of potency and efficacy. But the question to ask is – are all headache medicines safe to take?

The answer differs from person to person. This is where knowing your body well comes in real handy. It is always best to stick to the one you've tried and tested already. Something that your body is "hiyang" to or responds to right away. Like Biogesic, for instance. I've trusted this medicine for as long as I can remember. The truth is, Biogesic has actually become a household name in my family. And it has never failed us. My OB-Gyn even prescribed it to me when I would have headache bouts during my pregnancies and while breastfeeding.

According to scientific journals, the paracetamol in Biogesic is the safest pain reliever there is. It has no harmful side effects. Unlike the new medicines that come out, which may cause allergies and stomach upset. I have taken Biogesic on an empty stomach and have not experienced any physical discomfort at all.

And how it works! I feel better in minutes. I don't know of a more effective headache reliever that does not have any stomach upset or side effect. My body tells me that it's the medicine that works best for me.



Finding ways to stop excessive sweating

By Grace Carole P. Beltran, MD
Contributor

NON STICK
TAWAS

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

SWEATING is the body's way of cooling itself and is a normal response to a hot environment or intense exercise. But if your skin beads like an ice cold cola can on a hot summer day even when you are sitting perfectly still under the shade, then you have what is known as hyperhidrosis, or excessive sweating.

Hyperhidrosis is abnormal. Physicians believe it can be linked to a breakdown in communication between the brain and the mechanisms that activate sweating.

Experts think that a genetic link may also exist in about 40 percent of the patients with the condition.

Hyperhidrosis usually begins at puberty. It can affect the palms, soles, armpits and other areas like the back, nose, forehead and above the lips.

Sweat is the by-product of the body's efficient internal thermostat and air-conditioning system. The human body contains more than two million sweat glands and these are of two types: the eccrine and apocrine glands.

The eccrines are located almost everywhere on the body's surface—about 400 to a square inch—except in the palms where as many as 3,000 may be concentrated. The eccrines are smaller and originate deep within the skin.

Apocine glands are larger, fewer and are attached to hair follicles in the genital area and armpits. The apocrines become active after puberty and are sensitive to emotional stress and stimulation. They are responsible for body odor.

Excessive sweating is triggered by various conditions and situations, like having a meeting with important people or lecturing before a large crowd. Eating spicy food, consuming alcohol and some diseases can also cause hyperhidrosis.

Hyperhidrosis is not only an embarrassing medical problem but it can also tell us that something much worse could be happening to a patient. It can also lead to other skin problems like irritant contact dermatitis and athlete's foot.

Most over-the-counter anti-perspirants are not strong enough to prevent excessive sweating. Oral drugs, anti-cholinergic and atropine-like drugs cannot be given for life and have a lot of side effects.

Botox is a welcome addition to the number of medical solutions for hyperhidrosis. The benefits of botox injection especially in the palms and soles, appear to be more persistent, lasting from four to 12 months.

Sympathectomy is another popular procedure wherein a certain segment of the sympathetic chain within the chest cavity which is responsible for the sweating is eliminated through electrocautery, ultrasound dissection and excision or clamping. But it has a lot of side effects like compensatory hyperhidrosis wherein the patient develops sweat on other parts of the body such as the lower legs, thighs, abdomen and the back. Other complications are facial sweating while eating spicy foods and the droopy eye syndrome.

.For many years, excision was the surgical treatment of choice. But it left large unsightly scars, was subject to wound healing problems, required a prolonged uncomfortable dressing and caused limited motion of the shoulders and arms.

Today, we have a surgical method for the treatment of auxiliary sweat and odor. It is similar to liposuction, with the doctor scraping the tissue under the skin. The procedure is performed for two to three hours on an outpatient basis. The patient feels a little sore the following day after which he will almost be fully recovered and can even go back to work. Complications are temporary and can improve faster with massage and ultrasound. The best thing about this procedure is that it is 85 to 95 percent effective with a long-lasting effect.

(Dr. Beltran is a licensed dermatologist.)

FAQs on medical malpractice bill

By Atty. Erwin P. Erfe, MD
Contributor

WHO are covered by the medical malpractice act?

All medical practitioners, including physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, paramedical or other support personnel, medical and dental technicians, nursing assistants and therapists.

What are the acts punishable under the proposed law?

The bill punishes medical malpractice and practice of illegal surgery.

How is malpractice defined in the bill?

Malpractice refers to any personal injury, including death, caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any medical practitioner. It also covers willful acts of the medical practitioner.

What is illegal surgery?

These are surgeries performed to remove healthy human organs without the consent of the patient, with an intent to gain on the part of the person or persons responsible for such surgery.

Who may file a complaint for malpractice or practice of illegal surgery?

- The patient
- His parents or legal guardians
- His grandparents or collateral relatives
- An officer or social worker of the Department of Social Welfare and Development or of a duly licensed child caring institution, orphanage, home for the aged, mental hospital or other similar institutions under whose care or custody the patient is committed
- A concerned, responsible employee of the hospital where the crime was committed but only if any other persons mentioned above have expressly given their consent to the filing of the case

Does pardon by the patient prevent the prosecution or extinguish the criminal action of malpractice or practice of illegal surgery?

No. The express or implied pardon of the patient, his parents, grandparents or guardian shall not be a legal impediment to the prosecution of the crime nor will it extinguish the pending criminal action. It will not constitute a ground for remitting the penalty already imposed.

A malpractice suit was filed in court against Dr. X. But the patient filed an affidavit of desistance indicating that he has forgiven Dr. X. Can the court proceed despite the desistance?

Yes. Pardon, express or implied, by the patient while the case is pending shall not extinguish the criminal action.

What circumstances aggravate the crime of malpractice?

- Permitting motives of profit to influence the free and independent exercise of professional judgment on behalf of patients
- Conscious infliction of harm to an unknowing patient with the malicious intent of profiting from such act.

Can the court award additional damages aside from those that can be imposed under existing laws?

Yes. The following circumstances shall warrant the award of additional damages:

- The patient becomes insane or suffers any psychological damage
- Death of the patient
- Physical disfigurement or permanent disability of the patient

What penalties can be imposed on those found guilty of the crime of malpractice and/or practice of illegal surgery?

- Imprisonment of six years and one day to 12 years
- Fine of P500,000 to P1 million
- Fine and imprisonment
- Cancellation of license to practice

Can the court, in the absence of any aggravating circumstance, suspend the medical professional's license to practice?

No. The bill provides that in all instances of malpractice, cancellation, not suspension, of license should be imposed.

(Editor's note: The writer is a medico-legal consultant of the Medical City.)

Search for fairer skin continues

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

IF fair-skinned Americans and Europeans are obsessed about getting the perfect tan, Filipinos and other Asians are in constant search for the best way to lighten their skin.

This explains the proliferation of cosmetic and dermatological products in the market and the brisk business of some dermatologists who dispense whitening products. All claim to have the secret ingredient to whitening skin.

But what is the best ingredient?

The answer may be found in an independent study conducted by Katherine Frances E. dela Rosa-Ignacio of the Skin and Cancer Foundation of the Philippines. The study compared the effects of two popular active ingredients in skin whitening, particularly in treating melasma, skin discoloration caused by cosmetics, pregnancy, ultraviolet radiation and hormonal treatments.

These ingredients are purified licorice with 40 percent glabridin content, which is used in some local and foreign cosmetic products like Godiva and Christian Dior, and 4 percent hydroquinone used by the leading skin whitening product and the ingredient of choice of many dermatologists. Hydroquinone is also the most commonly used treatment for melasma.

The study concluded that licorice cream works better in treating hyperpigmentation because it is as effective as hydroquinone but without the side effects.

The study noted that hydroquinone is a restricted drug, that the Bureau of Food and Drugs said could not be used for more than two months because of the risk of skin blotching. Four percent is the maximum dose allowed and requires a doctor's prescription.

The study further found that licorice produced faster skin lightening, with significant results after just seven days. Hydroquinone eventually caught up with licorice only after the 16th week, although it is beyond the two-month use allowed by the BFAD.

"In view of the demonstrated efficacy of 40 percent glabridin (licorice) and the absence of adverse side effects, the licorice cream can be considered a useful novel approach in melasma therapy," the study said.

The study was based on the observation of 36 patients from the charity hospitals of the Skin and Cancer Foundation. Most of the study participants were female in the 41 to 50 age group. All had melasma.

Sunscreen with ultraviolet protection was used with the whitening creams. Hydroquinone was applied twice a day on the right side of the face while licorice cream was applied on the left side. After 10 minutes, sunblock was applied on top of the test creams. The patients applied the creams twice a day.

Follow-up visits were scheduled and only one investigator examined and evaluated all patients using a mexameter, which measures pigment color change.

After seven days, there was significant skin lightening with licorice cream in more than half of the patients, compared to just two out of 36 with hydroquinone.

After 16 weeks, hydroquinone showed a slightly better skin lightening effect over licorice.

"Both treatments were generally well tolerated, provided excessive application and rubbing were avoided," the study said.

Remember to rinse

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

THIS week's topic is the usually hard-to-pronounce ingredients listed at the back of shampoo or hair conditioner bottles.

With all the infomercials urging people to buy various kitchen helpers so that meals won't be prepackaged and laden with chemicals, perhaps you've wondered about the other chemicals you come into contact with every day.

Setting aside bottle color, shape, fragrance and any vitamins or natural botanicals, there are a number of ingredients that consistently appear on shampoo, conditioner and even body wash products.

There are five reasons chemicals are used in shampoos and conditioners: to clean the hair, to moisturize the hair and keep it that way, to make the liquid foamy (since most people think that a lot of foam and lather means a cleaner result), to thicken the liquid and to stabilize the solution. Several chemicals are multitaskers, performing more than one of these functions. Many are known to cause eye irritation, which is why there aren't many companies that can say their products produce "no tears."

Detergents in shampoos

Detergents like sodium lauryl sulfate and sodium laureth sulfate, which are more commonly used in shampoo formulas than anywhere else, take the oil and dirt out of your hair. Some formulations may have a greater proportion of detergents than others (don't worry, there will never be too much detergent in a solution that would do more harm than good), which may not be as good for thin or fine hair as other products may be.

Coconut oil, cocamide MEA and the detergents create a lot of foam and lather that make people feel cleaner not just physically but mentally and emotionally, once they're all rinsed off.

Propylene glycol, glycerin and cetyl alcohol help moisturize the hair and slow down the evaporation of water. Fatty acids and alcohol do the same thing. Polyquaternium-11 stands out because it moisturizes and makes hair soft to touch and easy to style. For those who recognize propylene glycol as antifreeze, you can either be horrified at the thought that what keeps your motor running also keeps your hair happy or think, "Cool."

Stearic acid, cetyl alcohol, sodium citrate and carrageenan (yes, the seaweed in toothpaste and ice cream) help thicken the shampoo or conditioner. Thicker liquids are easier to keep in your palm and people feel like they're getting more with their money with a thick solution. The same idea applies to milkshakes.

Compounds that start with the word "methyl," such as methychloroisothiazolinone (now you know why the others aren't being listed), are preservatives. So, for that matter, are DMDM hydantoin, tetrasodium EDTA, any compound ending in the word "paraben" (i.e., ethyl paraben) and benzyl benzoate. It's been argued that parabens are mildly estrogenic and anything that affects hormonal levels must be avoided. However, there haven't been any reports of men growing breasts yet so it's highly unlikely that these parabens can affect the human body.

Tetrasodium EDTA and aluminum zirconium are also stabilizers, keeping the entire solution from separating into its various components.

Toxic chemicals?

There are several websites that insist all of the chemicals listed above are harmful to humans (the word toxic appears several times in each one) and thus should not be used on one's vulnerable body.

If it were true that toxic levels of chemicals were being used in shampoos, people would be dropping dead from having clean and fragrant hair, which either isn't happening or isn't being picked up by the media. As the latter seems highly unlikely in an age where the downfall of large corporations is always newsworthy, it would be advisable to read the sites with a good deal of cynicism and a lot of common sense.

Practically every one of the sites attacking toxic shampoos and conditioners just happens to be promoting an all-natural alternative that just happens to be available for purchase there. Let the buyer beware then: know the facts before making any decisions.

Xenical prevents development of type 2 diabetes, says study

ROCHE recently announced the results of the four-year landmark Xendos study on about 3,304 patients which showed that weight-loss medication Xenical could significantly prevent or delay the development of type 2 diabetes. The results also showed significant and sustained weight loss over the long term.

The study results were presented during the 9th International Congress on Obesity (ICO) in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Commenting on the results, Prof. Lars Sjostrom, Xendos principal investigator, said, "Against the background of several studies which show successful lifestyle intervention in preventing diabetes, it is a significant step forward to be able to show that treatment with Xenical in combination with lifestyle modification is more effective than lifestyle intervention alone, both in diabetes prevention and weight loss."

Said William M. Burns, head of the pharmaceutical division at Roche: "The outstanding Xendos study results show that Xenical has a key role in combating the diabetes epidemic. Diabetes is a dangerous and expensive complication to obesity. An effective and safe drug that helps prevent or delay the disease, as well as maintain weight loss over the long term, is real value for millions of overweight people at risk of developing diabetes."

Here are the results of the Xendos:

- Xenical and lifestyle intervention are significantly better than lifestyle intervention alone in preventing or delaying the development of type 2 diabetes.
- The risk of developing type 2 diabetes was 37 percent lower in people treated with Xenical and lifestyle intervention compared with lifestyle intervention alone.
- Weight loss, both in the short and the long terms, was significantly greater with Xenical and lifestyle intervention (-11.4 vs -7.5 kg in one year and -6.9 vs 4.1 kg in four years).
- Weight loss was successfully maintained in the long term, with almost twice as many Xenical-treated patients losing more than 10 percent body weight at the end of four years of treatment (26 percent vs 16 percent). Even more patients had lost more than five percent body weight after four years (53 percent vs 37 percent), an amount that has been shown to have clear health benefits.
- Xenical-treated patients had significant, sustained, long-term improvements in cardiovascular risk factors such as blood pressure and lipid profiles compared with lifestyle intervention alone.

Treatment with Xenical for four years was safe and well-tolerated. Xenical is now the only weight-loss medication available whose safety has been studied for this length of time.

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Eating with new dentures

I JUST got my new removable dentures and I want to bite into an apple. Will my dentures withstand the test?

—Mike C.

An apple is okay if you cut it into small pieces and chew on both sides of your mouth using your back teeth to keep your dentures from tipping.

It is also a good idea to eat soft foods when first learning to use your dentures. After a few days you can move to coarser and harder foods. Avoid eating sticky or very hard food until you feel more confident with them. Learning to chew properly takes practice.

Also, be very careful because it will be more difficult and sometimes too late to feel a burn from hot foods since your dentures may cover many surfaces of your mouth.

(The author is a general and cosmetic dentist licensed here and in the United States. Your questions are welcome at dentalqs@yahoo.com.)

The case of the unwelcome 'visitor'

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

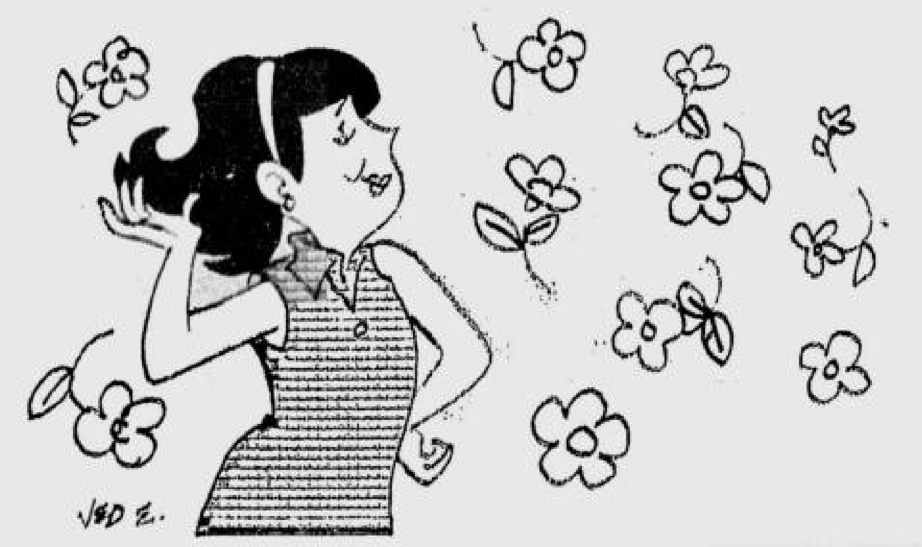


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

PIA was an active and sociable girl who had looked forward to the day when her body would announce that she was already an adolescent—on the verge of womanhood.

Pia was 13 when she finally had her first menstrual period. The experience was both weird and exciting. She marked it as the day she officially became a "teenage woman."

But several months after her first period, she began having excruciating menstrual cramps. The pain, which was so severe it made her double up, radiated from her lower mid-abdomen toward the lower back and thighs.

After a few days, the pain subsided and was completely gone after her period. But a month later the pain came back with her menstruation. Pia also became nauseated and was having diarrhea and a headache. This condition recurred every month.

Pia, like many women, suffers from the tormenting and incapacitating menstrual cramps called dysmenorrhea.

1 in 10 women

Appropriately, the term comes from the Latin word meaning "bad menstruation." According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, about one in 10 women experiences menstrual pain that is so severe she is unable to go about her job or schoolwork for one to three days every month.

Primary dysmenorrhea affects young women in their teens and early 20s. It is more likely in women whose first period (menarche) began at an earlier age and those who have heavier flow. The pain usually begins a day or two before menstrual flow and may continue through the first two days of menstruation. Most of the time, the discomfort tends to decrease over time and after pregnancy.

This more common type of dysmenorrhea is due to the production of prostaglandins, natural substances made by cells in the inner lining of the uterus and other parts of the body.

Prostaglandins make the uterine muscles contract and help the uterus shed the lining that had built up during the previous weeks. This shedding occurs during the menstrual cycle. If excessive prostaglandins are produced, the woman may have dysmenorrhea.

Prostaglandins also cause the expansion of the veins and arteries. They cause the blood to pool, resulting in pelvic congestion. This produces discomfort and heaviness and can lower the woman's blood pressure, making her feel cold, clammy and lightheaded. Sometimes it also causes contraction and spasm of the smooth muscles of the gastro-intestinal tract, leading to nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

The flow itself can be part of the problem. Heavy flow or clots in the menstruation have to squeeze out through the small opening of the cervix, causing further stretching of the muscles. This is believed to be the reason some cramps subside or disappear after a woman has had her first baby (because the cervical opening has widened).

Secondary dysmenorrhea

Menstrual cramps are sometimes caused or made worse by other conditions. Endometriosis is the most common disease that can cause secondary dysmenorrhea. It occurs when cells from the uterine lining form in other areas of the body where they cause irritation and pain.

After doing a battery of tests, Pia's doctor confirmed her case as that of primary dysmenorrhea. The doctor prescribed some medications, including prostaglandin-inhibiting drugs, and gave her advice on how to cope with her problem.

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen sodium are mostly recommended by doctors to relieve pain. NSAIDs and other analgesics like mefenamic acid work by inhibiting the production of prostaglandin. These drugs are generally well tolerated, although they can upset the stomach. NSAIDs are not advised if the patient has ulcers, asthma or a known allergy to this type of drug. They are usually effective when taken at the onset or, for some women, one to three days before the onset of menstruation.

Contraceptive pills may also help by preventing ovulation. However, these can cause side effects and may in fact be contraindicated for some patients.

Safer therapies for primary dysmenorrhea include aerobic exercise, applying a heating pad to the lower abdomen or back, diet and rest.

Pain may be reduced by exercise, which produces endorphins, the body's natural painkillers.

There are special positions that can help ease cramps. The simplest is the "fetal position" where one pulls the knees up to the chest while hugging a heating pad or a pillow to the abdomen. An alternative to a heating pad is a sock filled with rice and heated in the microwave.

Some yoga positions can also ease menstrual pain. In the "cat stretch," the woman rests on her hands and knees and then slowly arches her back. In the pelvic tilt, the woman lies down, bends her knees and then lifts her pelvis and buttocks.

A diet rich in fiber, calcium and complex carbohydrates and less in fat, red meat, dairy products, caffeine, salt and sugar can help alleviate pain. Smoking has been found to worsen cramps.

Recent studies suggest that vitamin B supplements (primarily vitamin B6), calcium, magnesium and omega-3 fatty acids like Omegabloc may also help relieve cramps.

Dysmenorrhea can also be relieved by using "mind-over-matter" techniques. Relief is achieved through visualization in which one concentrates on the pain as a particular color and gains control of one's sensations. Others find that imagining a white light hovering over the painful area can actually lessen the pain for brief periods.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Websites and trip sites

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

READERS are inquiring about helpful websites for specific purposes. Ralph Arnel Lim [ras_lim2002 @yahoo. com] says:

Thank you for publishing a list of informative websites (April 20, 2002). Perhaps you can furnish us with sites that tackle engineering economy, particularly value analysis, add-on value, replacement study, comparison of alternatives and cost-benefit ratio. I am particularly interested in how to evaluate projects by incorporating nonfinancial benefits (environmental issues, job generation, etc.) in cost-benefit analysis (through use of a matrix).

The basic principles of cost-benefit analysis can be reviewed in business-case-analysis.com/cbgo.html and www.gis.uiuc.gems/CBA/CBA.html. An interesting application of cost-benefit analysis to environmental management can be found in the web page of a conference in Sussex: www.sussex.ac.uk/units/gcc/pubs/reps/gralconf.htm. For different models and applications, try the link www.educationau.edu.au/archives/models/class3.htm.

Ready-made matrices and analyses are for sale at www. solutionmatrix.com.

Np C [drailph@yahoo.com] asks about probability:

I am an avid reader of your column. It provides valuable information for students like me. My research involves probabilities (hidden Markov models for speech recognition) and I cannot understand what I am reading (which may be the reason why I have not yet graduated). Can you recommend websites to help me understand the topic better?

Markov chains are fascinating ideas, but you cannot understand them thoroughly without a solid grounding in probability and statistics. If you cannot make heads or tails of the topic, then most likely you need to review previous chapters in your probability textbook. I am not too impressed with the many websites on Markov chains since they assume that readers have enough background to understand the technicalities (which at this point I don't think you possess).

Your best source therefore is still your book. (Any introductory text, such as Walpole's applied statistics books, should have good introductions to Markov chains.) It also will not hurt to ask your professor. Consult him often—he is there to provide help. (Alas, complex math, unlike most subjects, frequently cannot be understood without outside help or a good foundation.)

If you still insist on websites, the following are not too bad, but you may still find them too technical: mathworld.wolfram.com/MarkovChain.html, www.statslab.cam.ac.uk/~james/markov.html, www.efalken.com/banking/worddoc/stats.html.

Racquel Gonzalez [racquel-gonzalez@hotmail.com] is a dedicated teacher who wants to enliven student learning by incorporating a field trip:

I am a math teacher from the Philippine High School for the Arts. I am planning a field trip for my students. One is to a *sabungan* (cockpit) to show where the *kristos* (bet takers) are and how impressive their mathematical abilities are in taking bets and percentages. Can you suggest other places that are good sites for trips? (Unorthodox places are welcome, as long as they can help students appreciate math better.)

Congratulations for basing mathematics in real-life situations. I am not too sure about unorthodoxy, but perhaps you can take your students to the Philippine Stock Exchange (I hope the traders give permission) so they can see financial mathematics at work. Of course a bank is always a good place to start—make sure to visit the headquarters, not just a branch. Students can then learn about the different functions—treasury, accounting, and so on.

How about companies like San Miguel, which uses operations research in production? (Of course you have to tackle this topic first.) Or they can visit Internet providers and have a first-hand taste of what programming and web design are like. There are also countless websites with lists of activities to enhance classroom learning. I prefer the search engine Google, which leads to many useful links.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7. net every Wednesday. Contact her at blessbook@ yahoo.com.)

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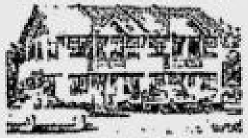

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ORTIGAS CENTER RESIDENCIA 8888, nr Tektite & UAP (a) 4BR FA-184sm FFurn, Park, Pool P8.8M Neg; (b) 3BR FA-123sm FFurn Park P6.5M Neg Ed-6871699, 0917-8124693, Elmer 637-9121 BROKERS WELCOMED

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CASH / TERMS FA-245m² 3.2M Big Rms T4566508

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

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UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.64M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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BATANGAS 4 HAS, P350/sq.m Banjo West Tanauan, fruit-bearing trees, nr road, Viva. 414-5891 ofc 749-5250 res. Rod/Cherry

FACTORY/WHSE

★RUSH SALE★ LA 1019sqm / Bldg 900sqm 118 F Pasco Santolan Pasig Ann/Len: 6465993 / 6459187

FARM/FISHPEN

7 HA Binalonan Pangasinan Mango Farm 0755622090

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APARTMENT

PASIG

KAPITOLYO STUDIO 6319239

QUEZON CITY

3units w/Grge9T@14Howmart Rd Tel 362-6546/454-9007

CUBAO Female P3.5 9124428

•P5.5T 1BR Proj8 T-9267383

PROJ2 U/D P6T 9219520

Rwhouse 2BR P2,500/mo. (neg) Parkwood Subd near COA SBayan Call 421-2730

HOUSE

MAKATI

3BR 2BR CALL 882-2922

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CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE
FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED

ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
1st Class COMM'L OFFICE RES'L CONDO.
B-4 BUYING / INVESTING
COMPARE & CONSIDER:
1. 1st CLASS AMENITIES NAME IT... WE HAVE IT!!!
2. ACCESSIBILITY - SCHOOLS (Ateneo, UP, Miriam, Kotska, PSBA, NCBA), BANKS, Other Bus. Establishments & TRANSPO to any part of M. Mla
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ALL CONC. 4-BR W/2-T&B
P1.85M ONLY
CONSTRUCTION ON-GOING
SPACIOUS PARKING
30% D/P IN 6 MONTHS
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New 4BDR&3TB nr St.Scho,LaSalle FA200m² 8330796 09175309804

MANDALUYONG

2BR 1TB Grge 532-4742

MARIKINA

3BR 1TB P8T • 921-3844

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

18th Flr. 187 Sqm FF Condo. Along Buendia Ave. 3BR 3B 1 Tel 1 Parking Call 8907745 / 8976292

Mkt.2BR/Stud P8.5up 8906374

MANILA

BINONDO 15T 2BR 4578041

Masangkay-Binondo Resd'l & Commercial 0917-3510990 Emer

PARANAQUE

4BR 4CR+Maids Rm 24Hr Security+Water 6339639

PASIG

III Sqm 22 Flr. Tektite West w / Tel ready for office Call 8907745 / 8976292

Valle Verde Terraces 1BR SF 15T 0917-2468094

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4BR 1TB Pagasa 931-4418

Condo Eastwood City Lafayelle 9-J Fully Furnished Brand New Call Carol 0917-9439648

Condo FF 54sqm Nr. U.P. Ateneo • 0918-6026382

KAMIAS 3BR 12T 4578041

FOR LEASE

Comml Lot @ Cubao 800sm & Karangalan Pasig 300sm Call • Rina @ 931-4418

COMML/OFFICE SPACE Available for lease 260sqm more or less 483 P. Faura St. Malate Manila Call Paz 8672657•8672620•6554549

ROOM & BOARD

8Male Prof 2T Pasay 8315026

Mkt.M/F Free Utily/FF 8906331

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Has available spaces for Rent.
Low affordable rates.

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New Ladies Dorm Nr UST Class"A" Tel.6451185/6810992

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Ortigas 8101 Pearl Plaza Pearl Dr. Girls & Boys Dorm P6T Up, 633-5094 • 631-6936

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LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

BUSINESS RENTAL

MALATE OFFICES 5268048

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

97 Honda VTI Civic Matic 385T Fully Loaded w/Spoiler Neg. Call: 0917-7954186

HYUNDAI

★99Atoz 270t, very cute sedan, looks like Toyota Echo, Automatic or M/T MUST SEE! Call 731-7984

★ PROMO SALE! ★ 94Grace150t, 98Starex 475t 2001Starex 660t, all power, Turbo Intercooler, Dual A/C, FREE LTO reg'n, Finance OK! 731-7984 / 731-6550

MITSUBISHI

95 L200 Pick Up w/ Cab Dual AC Cabinet & Seats at Rear T921-8088 P300 Nego.

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★97Nissan Sentra SS 275t, A1 Cond., air bag, timing belt engine, all repair, special muffler, Try road test! RUSH SALE! 731-6550

VANETTE dsl 175T 926-7433

TOYOTA

97 CAMRY T526-8048

98 TOYOTA CLOSED VAN P230T Vic/Gigie 8903461 Loc. 27

JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

97 ISUZU Alum VAN P170T Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc. 27

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2002 Chevrolet 1600 4DR Sedan Only 6 Months old Save 100K on New Price Offers Over 450K 0916-6248374 or 7182146

★Pajero, Delica, Vans
★Serena, Caravan, Largo
★Lite-Ace, H-Ace, Surf, etc
★Nissan Terrano
★Trucks all models
All units A1 conditioned
No hidden extra cost
Quality convertion
Customer satisfaction guaranteed
ACROSS MARKETING
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Trooper Terrano Pajero Town/ Hi Ace Prado Delica Surf Safari Elf Canter Bongo Porter Suzuki TxPD A1 912-0647 / 0917-8342020

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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USED GARBAGE TRUCKS Buy late model WM inc trucks & equip online. View current offerings at www.salvagesale.com only authorize mktplc for WM equip. lots of 10-30 units available

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

Bnew Starex MB100 9483535

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5%̧ FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

P45Tup Kawai Yamaha O/B No Int 6mos Pay 9240834

PETS

CHOW PUPS 09189008300

Dachshund Pups 4354575

DOG TRAINER 4528681

★PUGS★WRINKLED 3725231

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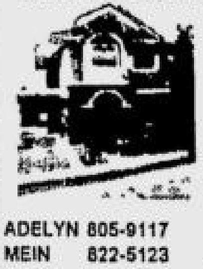

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Call Jho #723-8408
724-4411 to 15

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ANY ROLEX and Other Swiss Watches Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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GAY STYLIST T7.5-T8 Ortigas Salon Tel 6319949 ;3638685

Newly Grad C.E. with License Knowledge in AUTOCAD Call Jorge 4272808 /9537002

FEMALE

ACCTG GRAD w/ w/o exp. Computer lit. 7260169 Helen

Bookkeeper/Accnting. Grad. Call 8450733 ofc. hrs.

INTERIOR DESIGNERS Com. Lit. Apply: Dorothy's Virramall GHills,S.J. 10-6pm Tel. 721-3187 / 725-8387 Join us on our 25th Year

OFC STAFF FRESH MGMT GRAD COMP LITERATE 2878733 2873319 2885433 JOANE QUE

MALE/FEMALE

•DIR HIRE OFC STAF 18-45 YO 9134470 MS. CORPUZ

Experienced All-Around Beautician 8231386

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

★OFFICE PERSONNEL★ 18-45 w/w/o exp Start ASAP 4216507 Look for Ms. Roxas

★URGENT OFC STAF 18-45★ W/WO EXP 9121468 PEACHY

Ofc Staff 09196408735/Byron

OFC STAFF 09202470113 Cindy

OFC STAFF 9134470 Ms. ANG

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

OFC STF 09195249458 OLGA

OFC STF MS.LEAH 5512388

PHARMACIST Apply at : UG7 Cityland 10 Dela Costa St. cor. Valero near RCBC Tower Look for Merwin•Vangie

Upcoming Rest. in N.Greenhills is in need of a Gen. Mgr. College Graduate w/ 2-3yrs. exp. Drop resume w/pic.ID at 214 Villalobos St. Quiapo Mla. Mon-Sat 9-5

VETERINARIAN with extensive exposure in broiler & NUTRITIONIST with exp in feedmilling 6818696/2500254

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bazaar-TIANGGE Forbes Park Call 7137030-7137231

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen. Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan, Taguig; Real St Almanza Uno Las Pinas City, will hold an Auction Sale on September 21,2002 including all items. Pawned up to April 2002. V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TRAVEL N EARN FR HOME 8531008 09178901851 earn-and-travel.com

★★★KAYA MONG MAGING MILLIONAIRE Attend business opportunity seminar 4 FREE! 9264664 Txt 09173497249★09178147500 09204055606★09163969240 09183540736★09164865421

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
NEW FOUR (4) STOREY DORMITORY BUILDING
University Belt Area, Sampaloc, Manila
Floor Area-1200sqm
Accommodate 348 Students /Boarders complete with Cabinets/Lockers/Bookracks Beds/Tables/Chairs/ Mattresses, etc. Seven (7) Ground Floor Stalls/Spaces Available On-Lease Arrangement
DORMITORY BUILDING WAS DESIGNED & COULD BE EXTENDED UP TO EIGHT (8) STOREY HIGH
Pls contact Connie/Anton 9372622 •9372640 or 9361426

Mothers wanting to earn 75T/m frm home like myself Call 8072359 DAPHNE

RTW P28.00 Up 727-4934

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late LOURDES M. ALGARA has been extra-judicially settled per Doc. No. 331, Page 68, Book VI of Atty. Rosalynn S. Reyes. (PDI- Aug. 31, Sept. 7, & 13, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

That JR. Estrada & Sons. Inc. Stock Cert. No's 006, 012, 018, 024, 031, 036, 042, 049, and 054 under the name of Lourdes E. Ustaris was lost. If uncontested new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Sept 7,4,21,2002)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 722-1155

HOKEI SUBIC CORPORATION

is the leading professional ODM Manufacturer
of renowned Luggage Companies

is in need of

MOLDING ENGINEER/DESIGNER

Qualifications:

- Male, not more than 35 years of age.
- At least 5 years experience in molding/mold design
- Knowledgeable in advanced AutoCAD/Pro-Engineer/Pro Mold/Pro- Mechanics
- Knowledge in CNC and EDM operations
- Must have excellent work habits
- Willing to work and stay in Subic

Interested parties may send their 2x2 picture and resume to:

Hokei Subic Corporation
Human Resource Department
#40 Golden Future Street corner Aim High Avenue
Subic Bay Industrial Park, Philippines 2222

URGENTLY NEEDED

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

- Must have at least four (4) years experience
- Must have knowledge in digital camera (adobe photoshop/corel)
- Male, 30-40 years old
- Preferably a resident of Parañaque City or Las Piñas City
- Salary/remuneration negotiable

Bring bio-data & other employment requirements to Unit 1-3 A&P Warehouse, Manila Doctor's Village Road, Almanza, Las Piñas City, Metro Manila or contact Regina or Cora at Tel. No. 800-3805

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for

ACADEMIC YEAR 2003

Fellowship in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery
(with specific requirements)

- Finished Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
- Must have passed certifying examination preferably written/oral given by the PBS (Diplomate)
- Medical Diploma
- Transcript of Records with General Average
- Itemized Board Rating
- Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer and/or Director of the previous training programs)
- Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" picture colored
- Certificate of Residency in required specialty
- Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

- *Deadline for submission of application is on October 15, 2002*
- *Academic Year 2003 starts on January 1, 2003*

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09196239902) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09207645273) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 and 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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dti BUREAU OF
TRADE REGULATION AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRANTS

Pursuant to Section 12(A) of Department Administrative Order No. 15 Series of 1990, the Department of Trade and Industry through the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection, cancels from the record all Business Name Registrations which expired as of **March 31, 2002 effective October 1, 2002.**

Under the Business Name Law (Act No. 3883), as amended, owners or proprietors should renew their Business Name Registration upon expiration thereof.

This announcement serves as a formal notice to all concerned.

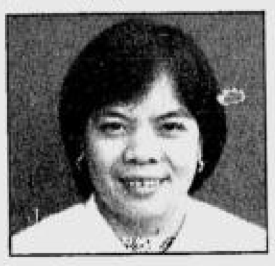
For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **Director Jesus L. Motoomull**
Caretaker, BTRCP

(PDI - Sept. 14, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the general public that a warrant of arrest has been issued by the Regional Trial Court of Batangas, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 13, Lipa City, against



ROWENA PALICPIC ESTRELLANES

of Barangay San Lucas, Lipa City Batangas for malversation under Article 217 of the Revised Penal Code, under Criminal Case No. 0152-2000.

Any information leading to her immediate arrest may be reported to the management of Metro Lipa Water District, Lipa City Batangas with tel. nos. (043) 756-1670, 756-1611, 756-1118, 756-3450, 756-6972.

A reward of P100,000.00 awaits anybody who could give a reliable information that would lead to the immediate and successful arrest of the aforementioned person.

(PDI--Sept. 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 & 22, 2002)

Trans Co
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID AD NO. TRANSCO 2002-002

Bid Date : October 22, 2002-2:00 P.M.
Pre-Bid Conference : October 8, 2002-2:00 P.M.
(CMMS Project Office)

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Configuration and Commissioning of the required Hardware, Software & Services to establish a Corporate Electronic Mail System and Internet Connection for the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)

SOURCE OF FUNDING : **FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT**
APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT TO BE BID: **P10,000,000.00**

The following manufacturers/suppliers/distributors are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at CMMS Project Office, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships;
b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., a group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract, provided that Filipino ownership thereof shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

Only Bids within the Approved Budget for Contract to be bid will be accepted.

Bidding documents are available on **September 16-27, 2002** upon payment of **P100.00** which is non-refundable. Issuance of bidding documents shall be from **9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** and can be obtained from the **Office of the Manager, Materials Management Division-TRANSCO, from Mr. Winifred Z. Gatus at Ground Floor, Building 2, National Power Corporation, BIR Road cor. Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, Tel. Nos. 921-3479/924-5245, Fax Nos. 922-8432/924-5466.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

(Sgd.) **JOSE B. BRILLANTES**
Manager, HRA-TRANSCO &
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI-Sept. 14 & 21, 2002)

INVITATION TO BID

The Pasig City Government through Pasig City General Hospital with principal office at F. Legaspi Ext., Maybunga, Pasig City hereby invites suppliers to a sealed bidding for various drugs & medicines, medical, laboratory, maintenance, office supplies and hospital equipment for the 3rd quarter of 2002.

ACTIVITY	TIME	DATE	PLACE
1. Pre-bid for various & Medicines	8:00 AM	9/16/02	PCGH, Conference Hall
2. Pre-bid various Medical and Laboratory supplies	10:00 AM	9/16/02	PCGH, Conference Hall
3. Bidding various Medical and Laboratory supplies	8:00 AM	9/23/02	ADCOP Building
4. Bidding various Drugs & Medicines	8:00 AM	9/24/02	ADCOP Building
5. Bidding various Office supplies	To be announced (TBA)		
6. Bidding various Maintenance supplies	To be announced (TBA)		
7. Bidding various Hospital Equipments	To be announced (TBA)		

The Pasig City Committee on Award shall award the contract to suppliers with the lowest qualifying bids. It also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor deviation in the bid tender documents which does not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept such bids most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO C. CASEÑAS**
City General Services Officer

(PDI - Sept. 14, 2002)

National Power Corporation
GENERATION COMPANY 1

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID UNDER E.O. 40 AD NO. GENCO 1 2002-01

Bidding Date	:	**October 9, 2002** **October 11, 2002**	**Schedule A (10 AM)** **Schedule B (10 AM)**
Pre-bid Conference	:	**September 25, 2002**	**Schedule A (9-12 AM)** **Schedule B (2-5 PM)**

The following manufacturers/suppliers/distributors, whether 100% local or at most 40% foreign-owned are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at 4th Floor Conference Room, National Power Corporation GENCO 1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

a. Duly licensed Individuals/Sole Proprietorship;
b. Partnership or Corporations;
c. Manufacturers/Suppliers/Distributors forming into a joint venture;
d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

SOURCE OF FUNDING: INTERNAL CASH GENERATION
APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT TO BE BID:

Schedule A			
Inquiry No. 0206-028	(Bearing for MBF 23.5 Pulverizer)	6 pcs.	P 3,218,994.00
Inquiry No. 0206-030	(Rental of Two Units Dump Truck)	3,000 oprtg. hrs.	1,500,000.00
Inquiry No. 0206-032	(Air Circuit Breaker)	5 sets	3,000,000.00
Inquiry No. 0206-037	(S/P for 4.16 KV GEC Alstom MV Switchgear)	3 sets	3,177,504.00
Schedule B			
Inquiry No. 0206-004	(Supply of equipment, tools, supplies, labor, supervision and engineering, testing and commissioning for the modification/conversion from Belt-Drive to Direct Coupled Drive of two (2) units Vibrating Screen)	1 lot	1,500,000.00
Inquiry No. 0209-006	(High Pressure Pump Assy. and Spare Parts & Motor and Hydrovactor Drive Pump Assy. and Spare Parts & Motor)	1 lot	4,908,000.00
Inquiry No. 0209-007	(Supply of labor, tools and materials for the general rehabilitation of three (3) units Stacker/Reclaimer Centralized Lubrication)	1 lot	1,400,000.00

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Administration Division, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per Inquiry No. starting **September 23, 2002**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager
Professional Services Department

(PDI - Sept. 14, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City

September 12, 2002

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The National Food Authority, Region 6, Iloilo City invites interested NFA licensed grains businessmen in the Sale Through Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) of its local rice stored at the following provinces:

PROVINCE/WAREHOUSE	VARIETY OF BAGS			
	RMO	WMO	RRO	TOTAL
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL				
GID	7,381		187	7,568
GEQUILLANA	4,064		192	4,256
RL	16,431			16,431
SANSON	14,119			14,119
NAPRO	2,396			2,396
ILOILO				
KABSAKA	851	45		896
JARO GRAINS CENTER	327	7		334
AKLAN				
AKLAN GRAINS CENTER	376	21		397

The sale shall be on "as-is-where-is" basis at Php11.00 per kg indicative price. Offerors shall be required to post a bid bond in the form of either cashier/manager's check payable to NFA and equivalent to the following:

CLASSIFICATION	CAPITALIZATION	BID BOND
1. Small	Up to Php 20,000	5% of SMDP amount
2. Medium	More than Php 20,000-Php100,000	5% of SMDP amount
3. Big	More than Php100,000	10% of SMDP amount

The bid bond may be converted to performance bond once the award is made. Interested businessmen shall submit the following:

1. Certified copy of business license/NFA license/NFA registration.
2. If thru representative, duly notarized authorization to represent in SMDP activities.
3. A certification from Registration & Licensing section of the NFA provincial office from where the business is situated as to the capitalization bracket. (small, medium, big)

The above-stated documents can be submitted starting **September 16 to 18, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. only to SMDP Secretariat.** SMDP terms and conditions and tender forms can be obtained from NFA Iloilo Regional Officer after paying a non-refundable fee of Php 200.00.

Schedule of SMDP - **September 19, 2002,** 9:00 a.m. and every Thursday thereafter until the stocks are exhausted.

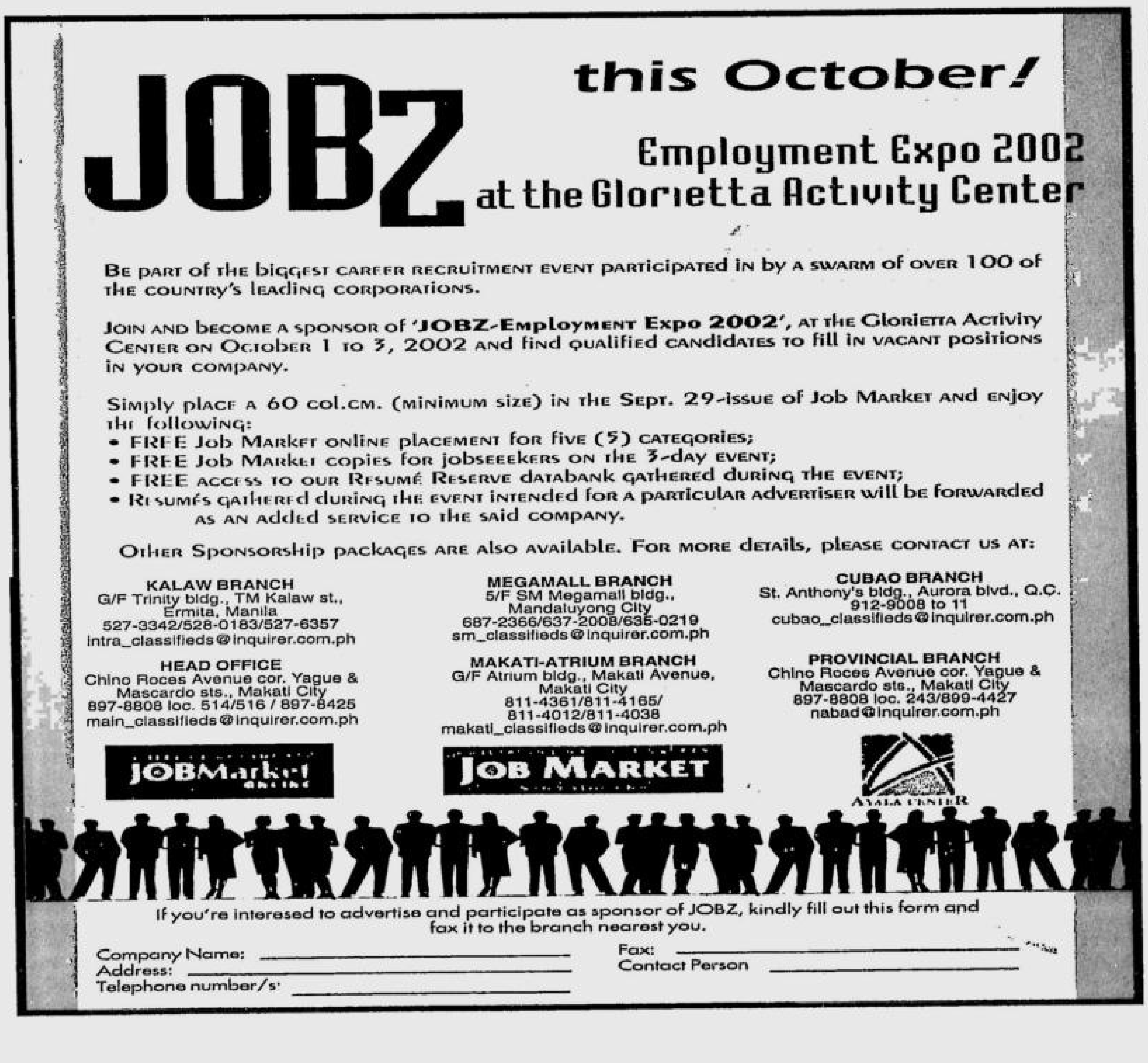
Submission of Tender form together with bid bond shall be made during the auction proper right after the conduct of presale conference.

Venue shall be at NFA Iloilo Regional Office, Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City. For more details, please contact Tel. Nos. **(033) 320-6246** and **329-2165.**

The committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgment are most reasonable and advantageous to NFA.

(Sgd.) **LUDOVICO J. JARINA, CESO V**
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 13, 14 & 15, 2002)



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Be part of the biggest career recruitment event participated in by a swarm of over 100 of the country's leading corporations.

Join and become a sponsor of **'JOBZ-Employment Expo 2002'**, at the Glorietta Activity Center on October 1 to 3, 2002 and find qualified candidates to fill in vacant positions in your company.

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENERATION COMPANY I
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 527-4880-82
GENCO I-2002-003 (PBD)

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF USED FUEL OIL AT ABB-BATAAN COMBINED CYCLE POWER PLANT, LIMAY "AS IS WHERE IS"

Date of Bidding: October 4, 2002 **Time of Bidding: 2:00 PM**

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	NPC FLOOR PRICE
1.	• Used Fuel Oil from Oil Pit OWS "B" • Oil Sludge/Residue from FOTP "B"	more or less 62,120 liters more or less 6,463.33 liters	P 2.30/liter

Pre-bid Conference is schedule on September 26, 2002.

Sealed bids in the prescribed form that be received until 2:00 PM on October 4, 2002. Sealed bids will be publicly opened on the scheduled date at GENCO 1 Bidding room, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN (10%) PERCENT OF TOTAL ESTIMATED BID.**
2. **LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2001) OF THE BIDDER OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY.**
3. **REQUEST FOR INSPECTION, BID FORMS AND SCOPE OF WORKS AT P 50.00 PER SET MAY BE SECURED FROM THE WAREHOUSE SECTION - ADMINISTRATION DIVISION AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS AND INQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE STATED TELEPHONE NUMBER. LIKEWISE, REPRESENTATIVES MUST BRING WITH THEM WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT OF WHICH THEY ARE REPRESENTING. DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE OF BID FORMS IS ON OCTOBER 3, 2002. THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY FOUND THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT/REJECT SUCH PROPOSALS AS MAYBE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ITS INTEREST.**

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Department Manager
Professional Services-GENCO I

(PDI--Sept. 14, 2002)

FUNERARIA
QUIOGUE
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BRANCH: 542 M. Almeda Street, Pateros
Tel. Nos. 642-3010

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*For more information, please call your funeral director.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down the green pastures,
he leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."
Psalm 23: 1, 2

ENGR. EMILIO BOBON ASIDDAO

2002 Most Outstanding Professional of the Year in Aero Engineering

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 13, 2002
at the age of 78.

His loving wife **Rosie**; children and in-laws **Teresita "Tisha", Fe & Gary Bowes, Joji & Elmer Nierva, Jerry & Mian**; sister **Caridad**; brother **Alejandro**; grandchildren **Janine, Justine, Joey, Mariel, Joanne, Jay-Jay, Mark & Trixie**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Premiere Suite 1, Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 17, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live,
even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Ret. Col. PEDRO MANGAHAS GONZALEZ

June 29, 1914 - September 11, 2002

PMA CLASS 1938
Bulacan H.S. Class 1934

His loving wife, ISABELINA, children and grandchildren, MARIO and PAUL, PETER, BOBBY, JACKIE, NICOLE, PATRICIA, PAOLO, SAMANTHA, PATRICK, ALEX, and FRANCESCA; other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 134 13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City.

Cremation will be held 7:00 p.m. today (September 14, 2002) at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 3:00 p.m. Interment Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Cubao, Quezon City.

"Living well is the best revenge"

Eleanore Calupitan Nolasco

Widow of USAFFE World War II Veteran,
JOSE GALANG NOLASCO, JR.

Formally affiliated with:

The Girl Scouts of the Philippines	1949 to 1958
University of the East (UE)	1961 to 1977
University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB)	1977 to 1980
Chairman, Laguna Red Cross	1980 to 1990
President, ZONTA CLUB of Laguna	1992 to 1993

Passed away on September 12, 2002, after a lifetime of community service to her country and people. Her family - devoted daughter **Maria Eleanore Christina**; and her husband **Jeff San Luis**; their son **Sean Irvine**; sisters **Atty. Josefina Alvarez Calupitan** and **Erlinda "Baby" A. Calupitan**; brothers **Castor A. Calupitan** and **Atty. Juan A. Calupitan**; nephews and nieces request good friends a prayer for her eternal peaceful repose.

She is presently lying in state at her own Tahanan sa Calios in Santa Cruz, Laguna and will be interred on Tuesday, September 17, 2002, 7:00 a.m., at the Himlayan ng mga Anghel in Santa Cruz, Laguna.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No. 712-2782
102 years

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

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AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
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Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Hobby farming 101

FOR the city dweller, farming is an attractive escape from hectic workdays in the city. It is a refreshing affair with nature, and almost something of *leisure*. That's the whole idea behind Landco's Leisure Farms. The first hobby farming community in Metro Tagaytay, it is a 116-hectare agro-tourism development designed primarily for weekend farmers. The weekend farmer – he is usually working during the week in the city, and on weekends goes off to the farm to relax, with his family and friends, to enjoy the farm, the fruits, the freshness.

But how does he manage his farm? Taking care of the farm details – the crop mix, layout, supplies, schedules – is a lot of professional work. For the leisure farmer, that's not a problem, thanks to Leisure Farm's Farm Management Services, which is made available to all Leisure Farm's farm owners for hassle-free farming.

Hobby farming at Leisure Farms begins with technical support, in which Leisure Farms' farm management office gives a brief overview of available options for the farm owner, and will be there to assist and support the farm owners.

For materials and supplies, they're all available at the farm's supply depot, which features a "complete line of state-of-the-art local and international agricultural supplies and materials, tools and equipment."

Contract growing, another area of the farm management services, "covers the A to Z of farming". It covers farm planning and consultancy, farm development and maintenance, farm supervision, farm inputs such as materials and supplies, and labor.

Occupying 13.5 hectares on the Leisure Farms site, the demo farms is the technological support base of Leisure Farms. It is a showcase of the latest technology available in the local and international agricultural markets, a working laboratory where the farm lot owner can get ideas on the operation and maintenance of his farm lot.

So that's hobby farming at Leisure Farms – farming for refreshment, while learning and enjoying new and better agricultural technologies, at your leisure. You can hang out at the farms on weekends, or whenever you feel like, perhaps with family and friends, check out what's new at the demo farms and see if you want to try it our at your own farm. Or just enjoy your farm, merrily water your crops and harvest the bounty of nature.

Leisure Farm will hold its grand launch on Sept. 15 (Sunday) at the Leisure Farms site.

Dubbed "A Day in the Farm," Leisure Farms' grand launch will be a refreshing day of family fun and agri-tainment. There will be farm-fresh activities like horseback-riding and fishing, pick n' pay, a fruit and vegetable market, and more, giving visitors a taste of the Leisure Farms experience.

Visitors can also explore the whole farm development, see the demo farms, the farm lots, and the soon-to-be-completed agri-entertainment complex and village center – an exciting preview of the farm-fresh lifestyle.

Leisure Farms can be accessed through Diokno Highway from Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay. The grand launch starts at 9:30 a.m.

There will be an open house today. For more information call 807-8496, 807-8754 local 375 or 378.

ADIDAS 'BRAND STORE'

Adidas Philippines recently awarded a franchised Adidas 'brand store' to 3 Stripes Sports Products. Shown signing the agreement are (seated from left) Adidas general manager for sales Bing Paras, Jenny David and Rudy David, owners of 3 Stripes Sports Products, Adidas managing director and president John Alonte and marketing director Angelica Sulza. Standing are (from left) Mark Reyes and Jojo David, co-owners of the 3 Stripes Sports Products and Adidas chief finance officer MJ Chavez. The first adidas 'brand store' in Pampanga will have its formal opening on Sept. 15 and is located at the second floor of Robinsons Department Store in Pampanga.

RP hosts Glaucoma meet

THE Philippine Glaucoma Society (PGS) led by Dr. Manuel Agulto, president, and Dr. Mario Aquino, honorary chair, invites all ophthalmologists to attend the Southeast Asian Glaucoma Interest Group (SeaGig) Second Biennial Meeting on Sept. 26 to 28 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The theme for this year is "Glaucoma: Southeast Asian and Global Perspectives". World-renowned authorities in the field of glaucoma will conduct lectures, case discussions, symposia, and instructional courses on a wide range of topics. Participating in SeaGig 2002 will provide the opportunity to interact with international experts in the field of glaucoma including Drs. George Spaeth, Paul Palmberg, and Ivan Goldberg. Interested parties may visit www.SEAGIG2002.org or call the Philippine Convention Organizing Center at 521-4884 for more details.

PRE-SCHOOL ISO 9000 CERTIFIED

To deliver the kind of quality learning its young students aged 2 to 6 years old require, the Toddlers Unlimited Learning Center Inc. in Alabang, Muntinlupa City applied for and has recently been awarded an ISO 9001:2000 certification. The newest version of ISO 9000 emphasizes on client feedback and continuous improvement. 'The certification would mean the quality of education we are giving is world class. Changes as well as new learnings are now shared with all the teachers and staff since teamwork and cooperation are the underlying values of this certification,' said Gila de la Cruz, the school director. The AJA Registrars Inc., one of the authorized certifying bodies in the country, conducted the audit for Toddlers while Joseph Server & Associates were tapped as consultants to facilitate the school's ISO application.

September concert nights at the old walls

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Department of Tourism (DOT), in cooperation with the Intramuros Administration (IA), presents "Concert Nights at the Old Walls," a series of weekly Saturday evening performances held in various venues within the walls of Intramuros.

This September, "Concert Nights at the Old Walls" features Philippine Barangay Folk Dance Troupe (Sept. 14, 6 p.m.) at the Puerta Real Gardens; the Bukas Palad Chorale of Ateneo de Manila University (Sept. 21, 6 p.m.) at the Puerta Real Gardens; and the Philippine Normal University Kislap Sining Dance Troupe (Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.). all performances are open to the public. Admission is free.

The series is a year-long regular event geared towards sustaining the cultural activities in Intramuros and consequently making the Old City a regular center for the performing arts. It shall feature outstanding Filipino artists and performers in the field of dance, music and theater that promises entertaining, culturally enriching and highly educational fare for the whole family, students of all levels, artists, the expatriate community, as well as regular arts enthusiasts.

For more information and detailed schedule of performances, call Glenn Francisco or Frances Alincastre at 527-2192 local 602 to 604 or fax at 527-2191 or 94.

PIFS 2003 IN CLARK

The Philippine International Furniture Show 2003 (PIFS 2003), the premiere international buying show organized by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP) is set to be staged at the Centennial Expo/Mimosa at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga from Feb. 28 to March 3 next year. Recently, CFIP inked the contract with First Centennial Clark Corp (FCCC). Shown are (seated, left) Jose Leo Caparas, national president, CFIP, and Eduardo G. Bondad, chief operating officer, FCCC. Standing behind are (from left) Chit M. Ledonio, executive director, CFIP, Eduardo Zuluaga, VP for fairs and marketing, CFIP, Galo Librea, VP controller, FCCC, and lawyer Rhoel Mabazza, legal counsel, FCCC.

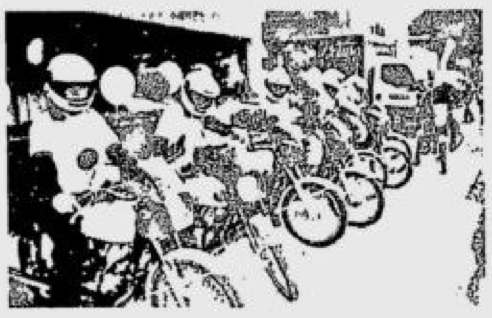
Product FILES

Greenwich take-home or delivery: 638-9000

RESIDENTS and office workers situated within a 1.5-km radius within Shaw Boulevard, Crossing, can now dial 638-9000 for delivery of their favorite Greenwich Pizza, Pasta and Chicken.

Due to the increasing popularity of the Greenwich line, the company introduced its first delivery and take out store in Shaw Boulevard corner Sheridan Street in Mandaluyong. Delivery time is 30 minutes simply by calling the Greenwich hotline.

Other Greenwich outlets which offer delivery services are in Philcoa, Quezon City, PCU-Taft Avenue, Park Square 2 Makati, Shoe Avenue in Marikina, Mayon Retiro, Quezon City, Calamba Crossing, Laguna, Dagupan, Governor Pack, Baguio City, Luzuriaga-Bacolod, Sto. Nino, Cebu, Divisoria, and Cagayan de Oro.



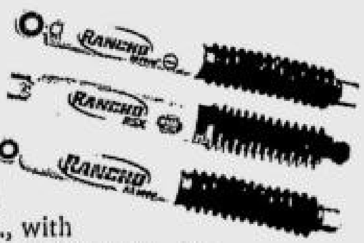
Rancho Suspension is here

RANCHO Suspension, the world's leading developer and manufacturer of off-road suspension and accessories, is here.

The Rancho RS5000 is the world's best selling, high performance light and mid-size truck shock absorber. It is a 10-stage velocity valving with a 5/8" diameter hardened and double-chromed rod that delivers a comfortable ride and superb off-road performance.

The RS9000 off-road shock absorbers, on the other hand, are the world's first 5-position adjustable shock absorber. The RS9000 is the 15-stage velocity valving with a tri-tube mono flow design. RS9000's five settings adjust both compression and rebound damping for precise ride control.

Made in the United States for 4x4, SUV and off-road vehicles. Rancho Suspension is dirt tough, street smart. This is exclusively distributed by Monroe Marketing Co. Inc., with telephone numbers 254-9256 and 254-9261, fax 253-0303. For more information, log on to www.monroe.com.ph.



BITS Clips

A 'Rock n' Rolling' gift

CELEBRATE the good years of your grandparents. Give them love and make their life more memorable and meaningful. Show them that you care as you celebrate their day on Sept. 15 at Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center. Ensure brings you closer with your grandparents as it stages Grandparents Day dubbed "Ensure: A Rock n' Rolling Gift of Life". Ensure, a complete and balanced oral meal replacement for people 50 years and above, helps maintain ideal body weight and protects our elderly from ailments. Abbott Laboratories will be providing free dietetic and nutrition counseling for the elderly and will be giving out product samples, while those would like to buy the products get a 20-percent discount. There will also be prizes for lucky grandparents.

Hua Lan 1st year promo

HUA LAN Chinese Cuisine celebrates its first anniversary with a promo "Eat All You Can" buffet with free iced tea on Sept. 16, Monday, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. for only P199 per person and P125 for children below 4 feet tall. Hua Lan's motto is "Serves Fast, Serves More, Value for Your Money". The buffet features 20 dishes to choose from. At Hua Lan, customers will also be surprised as it comes out with new menus regularly. This September, the Hua Lan Chicken with salt and chili, Mango Chicken and Hua Lan Congee will be introduced. On Sept. 14 and 15, Hua Lan also offers its "Eat All You Can" buffet. Hua Lan is located at the ground floor of the ITC Building (beside Yupangco Building), Jupiter Street (near corner Nicanor Garcia Street), Makati City, with telephone numbers 895-1681, 896-7828, or 897-5963.

BPI STAFF DON INTERNATIONAL COSTUMES

The staff of Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Intramuros branch, headed by its manager Jed de Jesus, don 'international costumes' in celebration of the bank's 'Preferred Clients Week' Aug. 26 to 30. Meanwhile, Manila-Pasay-Ermita was the area winner in the 'Dress Up Your Branch' contest.

'Huwarang Pilipino'

"HUWARANG Pilipino", now on its 8th year over dzRB Radyo ng Bayan, will feature on Sept. 15 at 9 a.m. the story of the struggles, sacrifices and successes of two outstanding Pilipino achievers Porfirio Rodriguez Sr. ("Ka Pio") and Teresa Eleazar Santos. Ka Pio was born and raised in poverty, but pursued his education. He was able to put up his own business enterprise that supports mechanized farming. Santos, who was schooled and trained abroad, discovered she could do more to help her countrymen by returning to the Philippines, where she now engages in nutraceuticals. "Huwarang Pilipino" has, so far, featured over 2,000 men and women of excellence in different fields, and has conferred Huwarang Pilipino Awards to 146 achievers. The program can now also be viewed once a month on ABC 5.

Spirit of 67 performs

THE INNER Wheel Club (IWC) of Makati, through its president Daisy M. Concepcion, announces that the Spirit of 67 rock band will perform in a fund-raising benefit show concert "Oldies but Goodies" to be held starting at 7 p.m. on Sept. 20 at the Makati Sports Club in Makati City. This projects aims to raise funds for the club's various socio-civic projects that will benefit the needy and underprivileged sector of society. The Spirit of 67 is famous for its interpretation of the rock n' roll music of the '60s. Tickets are on sale at the entrance to the concert area, or reservations can be arranged by calling Daisy at 842-3719, or Evelyn Ledesma at 823-9613.

Proposals for arts month 2003

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is now accepting project proposals for National Arts Month 2003. Projects should be for implementation in February 2003 and should follow the theme "Bahagharing Kalinangan: A Celebration of Diversity in Philippine Culture and the Arts". Proposals will be accepted until Sept. 15. The theme is in celebration of the diversities within Philippine society—cultural, religious, artistic, linguistic, or ideological. For more information, call the Secretariat at 527-2192 locals 613 and 614.

EC, EXPORTING COUNTRIES

WTO to step into row over tuna exports

THE PHILIPPINES, Thailand and the European Community have finally agreed on the terms of reference that will govern the World Trade Organization's mediation of the dispute over the alleged discriminatory treatment by the EC against the two Asean countries' canned tuna exports.

After months of negotiations over the text of the terms of reference or TOR and working procedures, the concerned parties finally signed the letter requesting the mediation by WTO director general of the dispute, the Department of Trade and Industry said in a statement yesterday.

Under the TOR, the WTO director-general will meet with the EC, the Philippines and Thailand to hear their views and concerns, which will, at the same time, give the mediator an idea of how much time and resources should be devoted to the process.

The mediator will also set the timetable for the whole process. These meetings will be done within 10 days from receipt of the request for mediation.

The DTI said that for years, the country had been challenging the EC's policies, under the WTO regime, of granting tariff exemptions to certain countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region. Under the WTO regime, the Most Favored Nations (MFN) principle applies in all instances, unless exceptions are specified.

It said that as a result of the preferential treatment to ACP suppliers, the country's canned tuna exports to the EC remained flat despite the yearly expansion of the region's market for this product.

The country blamed the 24-percent tariff imposed by the EC on Philippine canned tuna for the stagnation in the country's shipments to the region.

With their shipments enjoying duty-free treatment, the ACP countries' share in Europe's canned tuna market grew as fast as the demand for the product in the EC was growing.

The EC justified the preferential treatment granted to the ACP region saying that it was part of its efforts to help least developed countries in the ACP region. But the Philippines was quick to debunk this claim saying that almost half of the ACP countries did not fall under the category of least developed countries.

To finally settle the matter, the parties agreed to bring the WTO director general into the picture as a mediator. This was an offshoot of the compromise agreement between the Philippines and Thailand on one side, and the two and EC on the other during the last WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, in November last year.

The Philippines and Thailand maintained their stance to oppose the continued extension of preferential treatment to the ACP countries, unless an acceptable mechanism was set up to address the problems faced by Philippine and Thai exporters in the EC.

The first phase of this mechanism included three rounds of consultations and negotiations. This phase, however, failed to provide an amicable solution to the Philippine and Thai canned tuna exporters' problems. *Abigail L. Ho*

DOE steps up drive vs illegal LPG refillers

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. yesterday said the government and its private sector partners would continue its "unrelenting drive versus the illegal liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) refilling business" as public concern mounts against the risks posed by the trade.

Perez issued the warning following raids by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on suspected illegal refilling facilities in Pasig City and Malabon. The DOE said it would soon bare the list of establishments penalized for violating laws against illegal refilling.

During the raid, NBI agents confiscated more than P1 million worth of LPG cylinders and refilling equipment owned by Republic Gas Corp. (Regasco) and Omni Gas Corp.

Perez said initial NBI reports showed that LPG tanks being used in the trade were mostly dilapidated and rusty. The poor condition of these tanks could lead to fires and explosions resulting in injury or deaths. Bureau of Fire Protection records show that hundreds of fires all over the country have been caused by explosions from these types of cylinders, Perez said.

Perez also warned consumers that illegally refilled LPG cylinders "are usually under-filled as shown by investigation reports." He said these unauthorized products "weigh between 30 and 80 percent less than what the legitimate products should weigh."

He asked the public to cooperate with the joint government-private sector campaign against illegal LPGs by buying only from authorized LPG dealers. This will ensure that the products they buy have the necessary safety features, he said.

Perez also called on local government officials to review business permits given to operators of suspected illegal LPG refilling facilities. He said the refilling operations themselves are suspected of lacking the necessary safety features, he said.

The fact that many of these establishments operate near or within residential neighborhoods makes it necessary for local governments to take legal steps to stop the operations, he added.

China to start cutting tariffs on Asean products

SERI BEGAWAN—China is to start cutting tariffs on selected Asean imports next year under an "early harvest" package in its future free trade agreement (FTA) with the 10-nation regional bloc, economic ministers said yesterday.

The move is expected to give momentum to the formation of the world's biggest free trade zone—based on a population of more than 1.7 billion people—within 10 years.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) economic ministers, who met China's Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Shi Guang Sheng, here yesterday said they welcomed "progress in developing the early harvest package" to be implemented by Jan.1, 2004.

The package "is an integral part of the Asean-China Free Trade Area and would provide incentives to accelerate the establishment" of the zone, the ministers said in a statement.

"Negotiation of specific agreements for the liberalization of trade in goods, services and investments will commence in 2003." Early harvest provides that China slashes tariffs on selected Asean goods well before the full implementation of the FTA within 10 years.

The ministers said early harvest would be implemented for a period of three years for Asean's core members Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

A longer time frame will be accorded to Asean's newer and less developed members Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

China levies higher tariffs on some imports from Southeast Asia and the package was designed as a goodwill gesture by Beijing.

SEVERINO

Reports from Manila have said China imposes between 30-54 percent on sauces and mixes from the Philippines, compared to only 7 percent levied by Manila on imports for these items.

Beijing slaps a 29-percent tariff on fresh papaya and 15 percent on cabbage lettuce. The Philippines levies only 10 percent for fresh papaya imports and 7.0 percent for cabbage lettuce, the reports indicated.

However, the ministers said a "few issues remain unresolved" to finalize a draft framework agreement on the planned comprehensive economic cooperation with China, in which the FTA is the key component.

While declining to identify the issues, ministers have acknowledged an agreement has yet to be reached on the products to be included in the early harvest package.

China has proposed mainly agricultural products, while Asean wants nonfarm goods to be part of the deal.

Asean Secretary General Rodolfo Severino said he hoped outstanding issues would be resolved when senior officials from Asean and China meet in Singapore next month.

Brunei's Minister of Industry and Primary Resources Abdul Rahman Taib said the ministers "have considered the draft and we are confident that the framework agreement with all its components will be ready for signing at the Asean-China summit in Cambodia" in November.

Severino said: "In a sense with the early harvest, the process (toward an Asean-China free trade zone) will have begun. But the date of completion will be 10 years."

There are also differences on when the 10-year period required for the completion of an FTA would end.

But the ministers said they agreed the FTA would cover both trade in goods, services and investments and that poorer Asean members would be given special and differential treatment.

The early harvest package will be "undertaken or implemented on an accelerated basis" and while it will initially cover goods, the feasibility of including the services sector should be explored, the ministers said.

China's Shi described the establishment of an Asean -China FTA as a "historical move" that would result in greater Asian economic and political stability. *AFP*

Complaint vs Globe, property firms bolstered

TENANTS of a condominium in Mandaluyong have filed a new complaint against Globe Telecom Inc. and two property developers over a dispute involving unfair and discriminatory practices that their landlords are allegedly committing against them.

In a civil case filed in June this year, owners of small units of the Pioneer Highlands condominium accused the property's developers—Pioneer Highlands South Condominium Corp. and Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc.—of favoring their biggest tenant, Globe Telecom, "at the expense and discrimination of the other unit owners."

They claimed that their landlords allowed Globe to hoard the use of air-conditioning in the floors it occupied and to exclusively occupy one whole parking level of the condominium.

They added that Globe's use of emergency power have been overloading the building's generators, causing frequent breakdowns "to the prejudice of the whole building complex and other unit owners."

They have also complained of unreasonable association dues, defective facilities and equipment, and burglaries and theft.

In a supplemental complaint they filed on Sept. 10 this year, unit owners Luis Sicat, Pacifico Sanchez Jr., Jesus Arroyo and Henedina Limjap-Reyes alleged that Pioneer Highlands, Universal Rightfield and Globe Telecom were now rigging a scheduled election of the trustees of Pioneer Highlands later this month.

The unit owners claimed that during a general membership meeting on June 29 this year, the Pioneer Highlands board arbitrarily changed the formula used in assigning the number of votes that the tenants could cast to favor Globe Telecom.

They pointed out that under the Corporation Code, as well as Pioneer Highland's own bylaws and master deeds, each tenant would be entitled to cast only one vote for each unit owned. *Raul C. Dancel*

Petrochem firms back Roxas' position on tariff cuts

THE ASSOCIATION of Petrochemical manufacturers of the Philippines (APMP) yesterday supported the stand of Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II to invoke certain protocols in seeking the deferment of the submission of certain tariff lines into the inclusion list.

Roxas sent notice of the Philippine government's position to Brunei during the Afta's council of economic ministers meet last Sept. 11 in preparation for the Jan. 1, 2003 implementation of the Afta-CEPT tariff reduction program.

APMP executive director Mario Jose Sereno said the protocol was a mechanism crafted by member-countries precisely to address unique country situations on certain sectors that a member-state like the Philippines wished to develop and nurture.

He said that such a mechanism was so designed to allow member-countries to extend temporary relief to industries and this was well within Afta rules. Invoking the protocol is a sovereign option just as invoking the "10 minus X" principle is, he added.

Extending temporary relief to the industry to allow its development is expected to strengthen investor confidence as it will be perceived as an appropriate response to private investors who have put massive stakes in the economic development of the country, he said.

The exercise of these options does not mean the country is backtracking on its Afta commitments, he said. It will, in fact, manifest full adherence to Afta since what is being invoked are Afta-recognized mechanisms and not unilateral actions, Sereno said.

The petrochemical industry in the Philippines has invested close to $1 billion in the last four years and became operational in 1998 when the effects of the 1997 economic turmoil were still battering the region.

While the indiscriminate use of the delay mechanisms may indeed raise concerns, the investors pool may appreciate more the granting of opportunities to allow basic strategic industries to undertake a deepening period and preserve the huge investments poured on these sectors, it was added.

Sereno said that, a recent discussion paper by the Japanese Center for Economic Research authored by Tran Van Tho, an economics professor at Waseda University in Tokyo, pointed out that "the trade and FDI (foreign direct investments) effects of Afta have not been as strong as the theory of a free trade area predicts."

Intra-Asean trade has indeed expanded, but Asean trade with non-partner countries in East Asia has expanded at a higher rate, he said, adding that major non-partner countries in East Asia such as Japan, Korea and China have also expanded their manufactured exports to the Asean market at a faster rate than to the rest of the world.

The effect of Afta on FDI inflows has not been recognized so far. FDI inflows into China, even at the time when it was not yet a WTO member, far outstrip foreign investments in all the Asean countries combined by as much as almost three to one in the year 1999.

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SATURDAY*Special*

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** ● *Associate Editor* **Edmund L. Sicam**

Imax, Lucas team up for giant 'Star Wars' movie

By Bob Tourtellotte

"ATTACK OF THE CLONES." First "Star Wars" installment to be shown in Imax theaters.

LOS ANGELES—Film company Imax Corp. and director George Lucas unveiled a deal on Monday to show blockbuster "Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones" in Imax theaters, boosting Imax's push to show Hollywood films on its giant screens that can rise eight stories high.

Documentaries

Toronto, Canada-based Imax also said Lucas' Lucasfilm Ltd. will use Imax technology to remaster the film for Imax screens. The company, best known for the spectacular nature and science documentaries it produces itself, says its new Imax technology makes theatrical films as sharp to watch on Imax screens as on normal movie screens.

That also marks a step forward for Imax because it owns the technology, called DMR (for Digital Remastering). As a result, DMR could generate lucrative royalty fees for the company if other Hollywood filmmakers follow Lucas' footsteps.

"You couldn't find a movie better suited for the Imax format," said Bruce Snyder, president of domestic film distribution for 20th Century Fox, the movie studio that released "Star Wars: Episode II" this past May.

Positive sign

The deal also marks another positive sign for Imax as it seeks to restore profits. In the second quarter ended June 30, Imax posted a profit of $3.3 million, reversing a net loss of $11.4 million in the year-ago quarter, and it reaffirmed guidance that it expects to post a net profit for all of 2002.

Imax has linked growth to mainstream films and DMR, and in August, co-chief executive Brad Wechsler told Reuters the two factors are "going to be an increasingly important part of the company's performance." In September 2001, Imax shares hit a low of 80 cents in Toronto, but the profit picture has sparked a rebound. On Monday they gained 19 percent, or C$1.45, to end at C$8.95.

Lightsabers vs science

Imax theaters are mostly located near museums and tourist attractions and show science and nature movies. But in recent years, Imax has worked to change that image.

A space movie with the epic battles and special effects of "Star Wars" would seem a perfect showcase. "Star Wars" movies have loyal fans who will likely follow it to the giant screen. "Episode II" has raked in some $625 million at worldwide box offices, making it a major blockbuster this year.

While obviously a big step, "Episode II" won't be the first mainstream Hollywood movie on Imax screens. This month director Ron Howard's Imagine Entertainment and Universal Pictures will release a DMR version of "Apollo 13" with Tom Hanks.

Major moneymaker

That movie, while a major moneymaker with $353 million in global ticket sales, was released in 1995 and has been seen on television for years. Imax wants first-run, major

IMAX /C4

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Film celebrities recall 9/11

HAWN. Couldn't stop crying.

WILLIAMS. Positive aftermath.

BANDERAS. Tremendous sadness.

By Mirja Spernal

LONDON—On the eve of the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, film celebrities in Europe and America shared their memories and thoughts about that day.

Reactions

In interviews with Reuters Video News, the stars recalled their reactions to the news that hijacked aircraft had crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

"I was scared," said American actress and producer Goldie Hawn. "For the first time since the Cold War, when I was little and I would hide under tables when I'd hear the fire engine because I thought it was an air raid attack, I was scared. And I couldn't stop crying." Hawn was so moved she decided to knit the Stars and Stripes: "I sat in front of the TV set and I knitted the American flag."

Spanish actor Antonio Banderas, at home in Los Angeles and sleepless, switched on his television to watch the news and heard that the World Trade Center's Twin Towers had been hit.

Incredulity

"I remember the moment specifically, the moment in which the towers were falling down, the first one, and being with my mouth totally open and in a state of incredulity.

"I couldn't believe what I was watching, literally, it was almost like a movie," Banderas said. "Pretty much like the experience everybody had. And tremendous sadness and then immediately after thinking, what are going to be the consequences of this?"

Italian film legend Sophia Loren said at the Venice Film Festival: "We were horrified . . . the incredulity of what was happening live on television, (it) was really the most awful day of my life." The thoughts of Mexican actress Salma Hayek, also at Venice, went to the more than 3,000 people who died that day. "There were a lot of people that lost people in this horrible incident and I think it was a time of collective sadness," she said.

James Woods was among the many American entertainers who took part in "America: A Tribute To Heroes," a televised fundraiser aired worldwide last September which raised millions of dollars for those affected by the attacks.

"I just didn't think of terrorism till they started mentioning it," Woods said. "I mean I should have, but I just thought, this is such an astonishing attack."

United by tragedy

Actors in New York City at the time of the attacks spoke of their shock and sadness over what occurred.

British film director Sam Mendes said, "My memory of it was that I was there, in New York, and that it was something I'd rather forget. And you know all one feels is sadness."

Yoko Ono, musician, artist and widow of ex-Beatle John Lennon, said, "The Sept. 11th situation really shocked all of us living in New York City, and most of us are still in shock. But I think that somehow, we are coming together more and there is a kind of warm feeling in New York City." Many have looked for a positive side to the tragedy.

"For one moment in time it seemed that everybody put away their differences and came together as a people," said singer-turned-actor Jon Bon Jovi. "New York is still a melting pot. There's going to be Christians and Jews and Muslims."

Actor-comedian Robin Williams said, "My recollections are of a nation stunned and coming out of shock and gathering together as the most positive thing that has happened in a long time." "Friends" actor Matthew Perry reflected, "I think at a time like that, it's so tragic you can't help to see an upside and I suppose the upside is the country really united."

Brighter future

The attacks made those not affected "so glad to be here," said British model and actress Liz Hurley, Perry's co-star in their upcoming film "Servicing Sara." "We all appreciate what we've got a lot more and hopefully try to be nicer in some ways," Hurley added. "It sort of revolutionized the ways a lot of us think." A number of celebrities preferred to look into the hopefully brighter future than look back.

"I'd rather look at what we're doing now and how we're going to proceed from here. I want to look forward and not look back," said actress Susan Sarandon, star of "Thelma and Louise." Harrison Ford said: "It's wise that we reflect on why that happened, and we've changed behaviors to affect some changes in the world—and I mean other things than military reaction."

Impact

Many of those interviewed admitted they still find the events of Sept. 11 and their impact hard to comprehend.

"I still feel that it just happened," actress Gwyneth Paltrow said. "I still find it hard to articulate how I feel about it." Oscar winner Tom Hanks said a year was not long enough to really weigh how Sept. 11 has changed the world.

"We're in the midst of probably a decades-long adjustment to what has happened to us. Our kids are going to be 15 or 16 or maybe 20 years old before the world comes to a place where it's in its proper perspective," he said.

Stephen Soderbergh, who directed "Erin Brockovich" and "Sex, Lies and Videotape," agreed. "A year later we're still, in the States anyway, trying to figure out what our lives are going to be like or what the new version of a normal life is going to be like. I don't think its impact is over." *Reuters*

Food-tripping in California

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO, California—Among the happiest times in many people's lives are their high school days. That was the reason for my visit to LA, for a UP high school reunion. It was one of the most fun-filled weekends of my life.

Jokes

My cheeks hurt from laughing. Jokes were the same, most of them exaggerated. Our former demure and poised female classmates were loud, as if their real selves were no longer bottled up. The guys came in various shapes; some still had hair, others looked like their eyebrows were much lower. If you ever get an invitation to attend such a reunion, make time for it. *"Saya!"*

Apart from the reunion, I also looked forward to the variety of food LA offers.

I first dined at a steak place that looked like a barn. The T-bone steak was good but not exceptional. With the meal, we had baked beans and salad. I enjoyed the company while talking about the ups and downs of life. I also saw a sign that read "T-Bone—$1." Attractive, I thought. Then, "With meat, $25." Got you there! Me, too!

Resident

Bela, a former classmate and resident of the area, took us to Vietnam Town. As we exited the highway, I was truly surprised to see everything Vietnamese—shops, stores, video rentals, dentists, etc. We first stopped in a place that specialized in Vietnamese sandwiches (this craze will soon hit Manila, watch). The sandwich is made of French baguette, paté, mayo, pickled carrot and *labanos* with smoked meats. Super *sarap!*

Having arrived late, we ended up in a "Pho" or soup place called Pho Bolsa. There, we had piping-hot seafood soup with rice noodles, chicken and rice noodles, and a combination platter of shredded pork and baked egg over rice. All the soups were accompanied by chili sauce, fresh mint leaves and bean sprouts.

The broth was excellent. We were told that they broil salted fish similar to *daing* until almost burned, then it is mixed into bone marrow stock which has been boiling for hours. Superb!

NBA dream team

From LA, I went to San Francisco where we watched the NBA dream team massacre the Chinese national squad. I pray the RP team can do the same. There, a game is not complete without a snack. We pigged out on a jumbo hotdog complete with shredded onions, pickles, catsup and mustard. It wasn't a simple jumbo dog, because it was a foot long! Simply outstanding!

We also visited a restaurant called Akagi along Camino Real in San Bruno. It served authentic and superior-tasting Japanese cuisine. I loved the maki rolls filled with tempura.

Overall, the vacation will remain a great memory. LA and Frisco are still among the best places in the world to go food-tripping. Happy eating!

(Pho Bolsa-(LA) 14092 Magnolia Ave., # 121-122, Westminster, CA 92683. Tel. (714) 898-2322. Akagi Restaurant (San Francisco)—713 Camino Real, San Bruno, CA 94066, tel. (650) 952-4141.)

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Anna Fegi goes unplugged at Philamlife Theater

By Edmund L. Sicam

ANNA Fegi is known for her powerful singing voice and Afro hairdo. Tonight, her trademark hairdo will still be there, but for a change, she will do an "unplugged" concert in a venue that's been known for its perfect acoustics since the '60s—the Philamlife Theater.

Complete rest

We spoke to Anna at the concert venue recently and found out that the singer had been advised by her doctor to give her singing voice a much-needed rest. So for the past three weeks, she's had to cancel several gigs for health reasons.

One of these was the "Amazing Nights" series where she was supposed to appear with Bituin Escalante and Radha. She and Bituin had already done the series before and she was flattered that they were asked to come back for another performance.

Because of her absence from the music scene, rumors spread about her condition. Anna just laughed off the whole thing, saying intrigue is part and parcel of show biz.

The stint at Philamlife was something she wanted desperately to do, so she begged her doctor to let her do just this one concert, after which she would take a break.

What's so special about "Voices…The Perfect Acoustic Concert Series"? (That's the title of the monthly series that's designed to bring back the glory days of Philamlife Theater.)

First, Anna is honored that she was chosen to launch the series, which is produced and directed by Manolet Garcia.

More important, it is the singer's first full show in a big venue. All her previous performances have been held in small venues like bars and music lounges.

Musical director

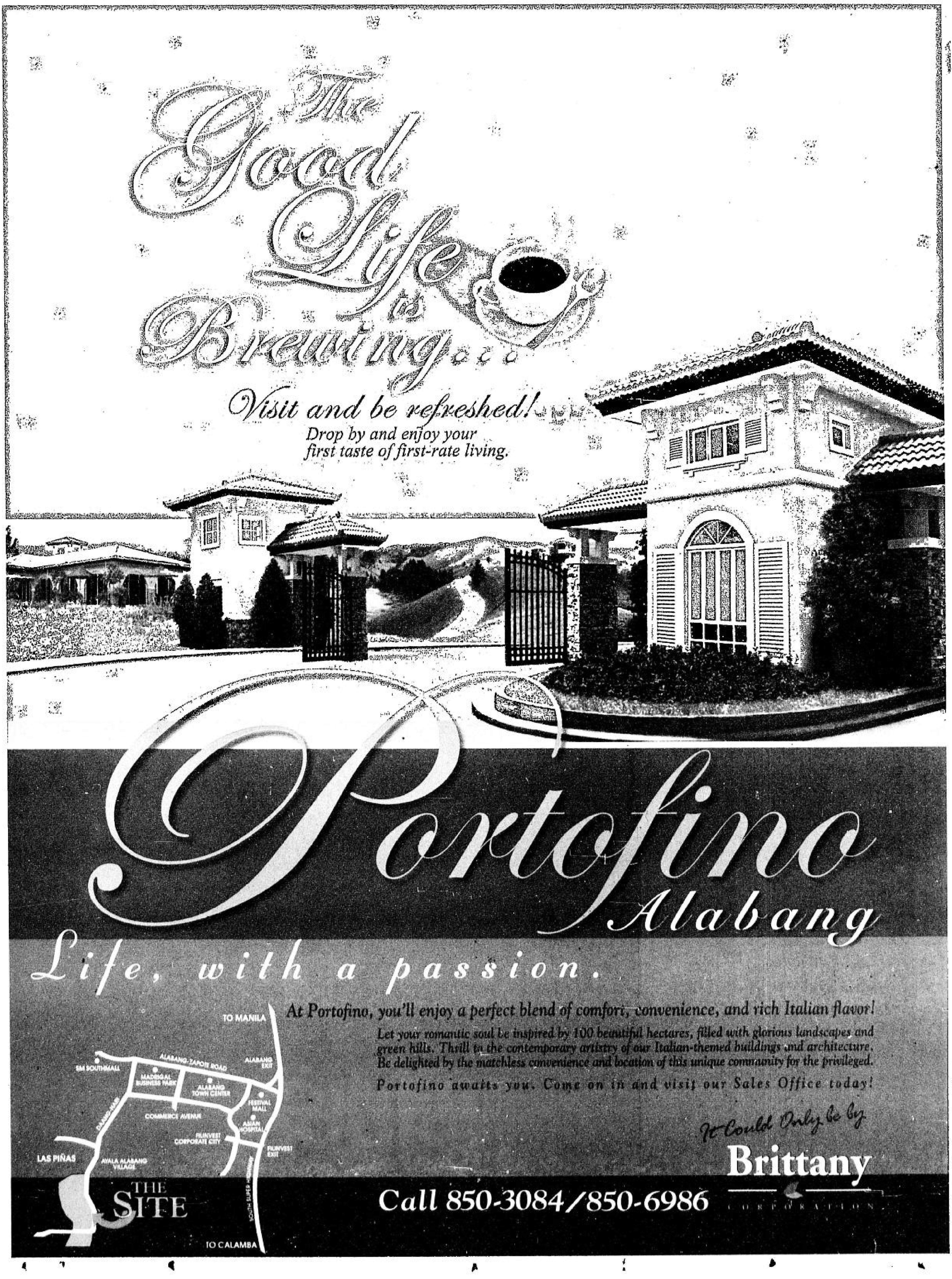
Instead of the usual band of session musicians, Anna will be joined by the Hiraya Men's Chorus and the Legato Strings quintet made up of UST Conservatory students. The musical director is Toti Fuentes.

Anna's crossover repertoire will include the acoustic "Burn, "Someone Like You," Josh Groban's "To Where You Are" with Toti Fuentes at the grand piano, Regine Velasquez's hits ("Narito Ako," "Buhay ng Buhay Ko," "Kung Maibabalik Ko Lang," "Sana Maulit Muli"), Zsa Zsa Padilla originals ("Hiram," "Kahit Na," "Ikaw Lamang," Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan), and Mandy Moore's "Only Hope"

One number we're looking forward to is an a capella rendition of "The Prayer" in which the acoustics of Philamlife will be tested.

After Anna rests her voice, she'll be very busy again in the coming months with two musicals, "The Rocky Horror Show" and "Dreamgirls," for Atlantis Productions.

FEGI. Has had to pass up some gigs for health reasons.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When to let go

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

I'd like to talk to you about death. Yes, death. For many people, it is a taboo subject because of the grief and sense of morbidity that goes with it. Truth to tell, I used to feel the same way. While there were people who derived perverse pleasure from exchanging stories about dying, it gave me the creeps.

Lessons

But not anymore. I'm no longer afraid of death, much less talking about it. Because there is an entire encyclopedia of lessons to be learned from it.

Do you remember Estrella Abad Santos-Recto? Mommy Baby, as we fondly called her, was a beautiful person who, in such a short time, taught me how to live and age and die gracefully.

I knew her for barely two months prior to her demise two weeks back. She was my dialysis classmate. She had blood problems—hepatitis C and diabetes—which resulted in total renal failure. She was dialyzed thrice weekly for two years.

Several days after her 69th birthday, she was rushed to the hospital where she stayed for two weeks, two days of which were at the intensive care unit. To my eternal regret, I never found the chance to pay her a visit. I got a big jolt when news came that she had died. Her doctors said that she had suffered from multiple strokes in the brain.

Confidence

I remember, at first, I just watched her from a distance. Immediately, I knew she was a strong lady—although she was frail and limped when she walked. She had this air of quiet dignity and confidence. Even the way she sometimes creased her brows told me she was in control of her demons. And she had this uncanny way of "owning" any room she entered.

One day, after her dialysis, she came over to me and cheerfully introduced herself. She wanted to invite me to her birthday party. Well, it wasn't really a party, she just wanted to bring to the center some eats and drinks for all of us. I went and I'm glad I did. Because otherwise, I'd have missed out on the blessing of knowing this wonderful lady.

Mommy Baby was a fiercely independent woman. She had two children—her daughter lives in the US and her son is here in Manila—but she adamantly refused to burden them with taking care of her. I'm sure, she disliked the idea of people fussing over her—even if they were her own children. She chose to live in her San Juan digs with her nurses and maids, and away from the aggravation of living with family.

Grace personified

You know, Clara, Mommy Baby was grace personified. I thought I had it, whereas I only evoked it—and she *was* it—despite the cane that supported her legs and the brace that held up her neck.

She was so cool and poised that she defied all her ailments! It was like she dared each one of them to tear down her spirit, even as they had already succeeded in mercilessly ravaging her body.

Indeed, Clara, I learned from Mommy Baby that, for as long as a person steadfastly wills it, no affliction or calamity on this earth could ever break the indomitability of his spirit. There is serenity in a storm. There is beauty in muck. There is peace in the world! Because all these are but a decision.

Mommy Baby always had a ready smile for people—even in times when I saw unmistakable traces of sadness in her eyes. She'd be lost in thought, especially when she felt she was alone with herself, but her face would explode into a happy smile whenever she recognized familiar faces in that quietly boring corner of the world called the dialysis center.

I was sure Mommy Baby had her own share of concerns which must have pained her endlessly, but she was the master of her pain. Her sense of joy was much greater than the capacity of pain to steal her smile from her heart. I heard, she had a violent streak, hurting herself—especially when the pain of her ailments assailed her—but even that was her way of taking control of the things that wished to wrest control of her.

Mommy Baby lived life to the fullest. She drank of it with the eagerness of a child and, when she was through, she'd ask for more. And more! Until she decided she'd had enough. Yes, God must have granted her the grace to know when to hold on, when to let go and when to move on in faith.

Final wish

Because Mommy Baby willed to die even before she did. Her death was just God's way of granting her final wish. She just knew her time was up. The season for letting go came and she was ready for it. The hour for moving on arrived and she hopped on the bus. Happily. Without looking back. Looking ahead to the next life with her Maker.

After her birthday, Mommy Baby began to miss dialysis. Her two forever chattering nurses would call the center to say Mommy Baby couldn't be disturbed by something so boring as a dialysis appointment because she was very busy having a good time—playing mahjongg with friends. That was why, when we learned she had passed away, we exchanged meaningful glances—we knew she was actually asking for it.

At first, Clara, I thought it was all a waste. Why will to die when there's so much to do with life to bother about death? Isn't life a blessing, and death a curse?

Affection

Then, I thought about what could have run through her mind at that moment when she was slipping from this life to the beyond. Like, did she think about her children? Did she doubt that they loved her? Has she ever allowed them to express their affection for her? And was she aware that she was a beautiful person? Did she know that she mattered to those of us she allowed to peek at life through her prisms? Did she ever regret her choice to be alone in her twilight days?

But then, Clara, I realized that Mommy Baby was beyond all that already. She couldn't be ruffled by such mundane concerns as she was dancing in the realm of the spirit. I never knew her to be a religious person, but I sensed a deep sense of spirituality in her fatalism and resignation to the divine power that she had allowed to dwell in her soul.

It was a beautiful life, Clara. And precisely because it was so, death becomes her. I went to her wake. It was a somber occasion—but that was more a reflection of the state of heart of the people who loved and missed her, than of the condition of her spirit—which was victorious and triumphant.

How could it not be? She was finally home.

ABAD SANTOS-RECTO. Celebrated her last birthday on Aug. 21.

Imax . . .

From page C1

movies on the same day in Imax as in traditional theaters.

"For us, the Holy Grail has always been the simultaneous release of live action films," Imax co-chief executive Richard Gelfond told Reuters in June.

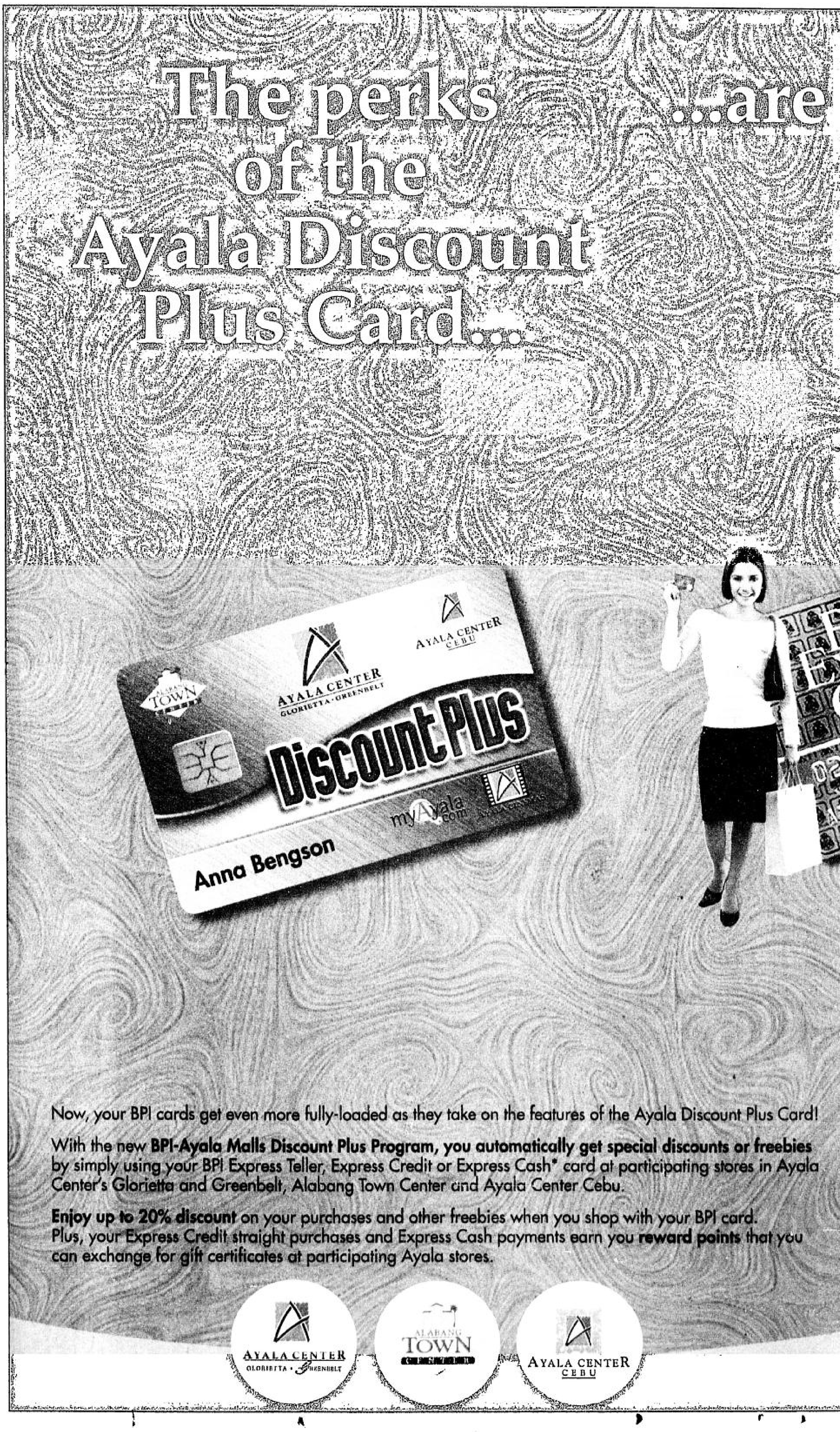
Just last month, Imax hired Beverly Hills talent group, Creative Artists Agency, to help it make the connections that would lead to deals for first-run live-action movies.

In November, Imax sees its first simultaneous release of an animated film, The Walt Disney Co.'s "Treasure Planet." Disney has had success re-releasing animated movies like "Beauty and the Beast" and "Fantasia 2000" on Imax.

But live-action films, generally speaking, have more mass appeal, older audiences, greater promotional hype and bigger box office potential than animated movies.

Moreover "Treasure Planet" uses Disney's own technology, not DMR, to make the film presentable for giant Imax screens.

Imax has failed to win over Hollywood because standard 35 millimeter films formatted for Imax theaters lack the picture quality they have in traditional theaters. The DMR technology solves that problem, according to Imax. *Reuters*



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Searching for a national film archive

By Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.

(Conclusion)

"ORO, PLATA, MATA." Now stored in the ABS-CBN Archive.

Private, industry-based institutions

THE INDUSTRY-BASED film institutions in the Philippines include the major studios that were once active in film production (LVN, Sampaguita, and Premiere), a few film companies which are still active in production (Viva, FPJ, Reyna Films), and a major broadcasting network (ABS-CBN), which has a film-producing subsidiary, Star Cinema.

The movie industry in post-WWII Philippines was characterized by a studio system that was dominated by the Big Three—LVN, Sampaguita, and Premiere. These three studios are no longer active in film production, but they produced a treasure of Filipino movies in the years immediately after the Pacific War up to the late '50s and early '60s. These three studios maintain their own collections. Among them, the LVN Archive is the more active in terms of restoration.

The LVN Archive has a collection of its remaining films in various formats. Out of a total of 348 films produced from 1938 to 1961, a little over 50 percent is extant in various conditions. Aside from films, the archive has a good collection of stills.

The survival of these remaining films is an interesting story in itself. During the height of the studio system, LVN merely had a storage structure for its master negatives and prints. This storage structure was walled in by hollow blocks and was not even air-conditioned. It was managed by one person who revised, shelved, and documented his work in his own handwriting on sheets of paper.

Much was lost in this storage system; but, another way of looking at it is that much more could have been lost. Quite clearly, archiving was not in the minds of the studio heads at the time.

LVN stopped production in the early '60s but continued its color laboratories and post-production facilities. Its films of the preceding decades, transferred onto 16mm film format or U-matic tape, enjoyed a lease on life in provincial and television runs.

In the '80s, Mike de Leon, grandson of the LVN matriarch, saw the deteriorating state of the studio's extant films and decided to transfer the remaining prints onto videotape. There was no budget for telecine transfer, so he merely projected the films and recorded them off the screen with a Betamax camera and recorder.

The improvised recording was not able to get rid of the flickering effect. However, some of these films have since deteriorated further and are now only available on the poorly recorded Betamax format.

In the late '80s, better late than never, the LVN Archive was organized. The studio's remaining films were counted and some semblance of archiving was instituted.

Today, an active restoration program is being done, under the management of Mike de Leon. For lack of funds to restore the films on film, LVN has resorted to restoring the remaining films on digital video. The hardware includes a Matrox Digisuite LE, for cleaning the image and re-editing some parts, and a Sadie, for cleaning the sound.

The copies to be restored come from various sources—the extant 35mm or 16mm positive or negative copies; U-matic video copies which were originally made for the television broadcasts; and, Mike de Leon's flickering Betamax copies.

The first production of LVN, "Giliw Ko" (1938), was restored in cooperation with the National Film and Sound Archive in Australia and the Philippine Information Agency. However, for a number of LVN productions that are no longer available on film, the alternative is the restored copies on digital video.

Aside from the Big Three Studios, there are younger companies that are still active in film production and have instituted some form of archiving. These companies include FPJ, the production company of the country's major action star, Fernando Poe Jr.; Viva Films, which started in 1981 and is currently one of the major companies; and Reyna Films, Armida Siguion-Reyna's company that is known for some of its films and the long-running musical program for television, "Aawitan Kita."

Among the present film production companies, Star Cinema enjoys state-of-the-art archival facilities through its association with the ABS-CBN broadcasting network.

The ABS-CBN Archive was established to protect its video library and the films for which the network has television rights. The film holdings include selected films by various companies, e.g. Seiko, Octo-Arts, Cine Suerte, Imus Films, and most of the movies produced by Regal Films.

Films that are still being broadcast are acquired on a medium-term basis and are available either on film or video. Films that are acquired on a long-term basis, (titles that have been acquired through absolute sale in perpetua,) are available on film and video and their master negatives are stored in the archive.

Examples of these films that are now owned by ABS-CBN in perpetuity are the films produced by NV Productions, the company of superstar Nora Aunor, and the films produced by the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines, which include Ishmael Bernal's "Himala" (Miracle, 1982) and Peque Gallaga's "Oro Plata Mata" (Gold Silver Death, 1983).

The ABS-CBN Archive has new facilities with two main vaults. One vault is designed for the "medium-term" film in which the temperature is kept between 15-20 degrees Celsius, with 35 percent RH. The other vault is for the "long-term" films and master negatives in which the temperature is kept between 8-10 degrees Celsius, with 35 percent RH.

Like the LVN Archive, the air-conditioning units are operated 24 hours a day. The air conditioning units of most the other "archives," including the ones under the government institutions, are turned off when the staff leaves for the day and turned on at the start of a work day.

Private collectors and film suppliers

This next category consists of individuals who may have a film or two (or more) stashed away under their beds or some cool place in their houses or offices. They may not have the structure of what we consider archives, but they are "archivists" at heart. If not films, these individuals keep a collection of extra-filmic materials, e.g. stills, posters, clippings, which may or may not be catalogued.

There are individuals who keep bigger collections of films or video copies of films; these are the film suppliers. These suppliers hold (or claim to hold) the television rights to their prints. Their "archives" are simply storage rooms, which can range from an office space to a shelf in a comfort room. Obviously, the holdings of these suppliers are not in mint condition, but they may include some rare finds.

Question of a national audio-visual archive

It is now appropriate to ask the question: Why is there no national audio-visual archive in the Philippines? Actually, there used to be a national archive in the country known as the Film Archive of the Philippines. It was established in 1981 under the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines. The ECP was created by a decree of President Marcos to oversee the development of Philippine Cinema, and principally to organize the Manila International Film Festival.

Aside from the international film festival, the projects of the ECP inclued the Film Ratings Board, a number of feature film productions, a short film festival, and the archives.

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DISABLED FILIPINO OF THE YEAR FETED. From left are Lovely Romulo, Gina de Venecia, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Disabled Filipno of the Year Melchor Tumbos, Manny Agcaoli, Corazon Tumbos, Dr. Cecil Tolosa and other special guests.

Differently-abled achievers

THIS year, a disabled teacher from Bacolod City, Melchor Tumbos, was chosen as the Disabled Filipino of the Year by the 2002 Apolinario Mabini Awards Committee headed by Gina de Venecia.

Dedication

Despite his blindness, Tumbos is a *cum laude* graduate of Psychology. He devotes his time teaching the visually-impaired students at Bacolod City National High School. His dedication has become an inspiration to the local Rotary Club to organize a Rotaract Club with livelihood projects for the disabled.

Another awardee is Vicenta Fernandez of Camarines Sur who, despite the absence of both her arms, managed to raise her children.

The Mabini Awards is a yearly undertaking of the Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, in honor of the "great plebeian" Apolinario Mabini. The awards ceremonies were recently held at the Heroes Hall of Malacañang, with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as guest of honor. The Mabini Awards were sponsored by the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc.

Blind architect

The Mabini Presidential Award was given to a blind architect, Jaime Silva of the Inter-Agency Committee on Accessibility, an NGO that monitors the implementation of the Accessibility Law.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Other awardees were the Father Rafael Desmedt Cooperative (Disabled Group of the Year); Jollibee Corp. (Employer of the Year); Edsa Shrangri-La Hotel (Most Disabled-Friendly Establishment); and the Christian Organization for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled Foundation (Rehabilitation Volunteer of the Year).

Named as Local Government Units of the Year were Dagupan City, Taguig City, Penablanca, Cagayan, and the provincial governments of Isabela and Occidental Mindoro.

A posthumous award was given to deceased columnist Art Borjal, who authored the Magna Carta for the Disabled when he was a congressman.

Asian Hospital in Alabang also got a special citation as a disabled-friendly establishment.

Searching for a national film archive

From page C4

Imelda Marcos built the doomed Manila Film Center as the venue for the Manila International Film Festival, and it was also designed to house the Film Archive.

The site was a reclaimed area on the coast of Manila Bay. It was not exactly the best site for a Film Archive, but it was a structure nonetheless that could support the various activities of a national audio-visual archive.

The Film Archive of the Philippines started its collection by acquiring some early films about the Philippines; soon, feature films, with their master negatives, were deposited (or surrendered) by local producers. The archive even played host to its Asean neighbors for some workshops and training programs in archiving.

However, the Film Archive was shortlived. In 1986, when the regime of President Marcos was ended unceremoniously, the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines was closed down, and with it the Film Archive of the Philippines. The collection was transferred to the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, which was not a hospitable place since archiving was not germane to its task. Soon enough, the MTRCB released the collection, or what was left of it, to the Philippine Information Agency.

Presently, there is a bill in Congress focusing on the development of the national archives. Although the bill centers on the needs of the traditional print archive, it includes a provision for an audio-visual archive.

What is the future of this national archives bill? The answer depends on the lawmakers' priorities. With economic and political problems, both national and international, exerting their pressure on the country, the prognosis for the birth of a revitalized national archives does not look bright.

Collective action

In the absence of a national audio-visual archive and the presence of individual little "archives," there appears to be a need to rationalize the archiving activities in the country. In 1993, a group of professionals connected to different institutions engaged in some form of audio-visual archiving organized the Society of Film Archivists (Sofia).

Without funds, much less its own office and archiving facilities, the group members were fueled simply by their passion for film and by their resolve to preserve the film heritage of the country.

Understanding the need to act speedily, Sofia identified specific needs for the retrieval and restoration of endangered films. It also organized short-term training workshops in preservation and collection management, and offered to advise various institutions in their archiving programs. With assistance coming from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Sofia was able to program the restoration of some landmark films, including the first film produced by LVN, "Giliw Ko" (My Dear, 1938), and some key films by major filmmakers like Gerardo de Leon, Lamberto Avellana, Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal.

In cooperation with institutions like the Philippine Information Agency and the National Film and Sound Archive in Australia, Sofia organized training workshops and seminars on cataloguing, film and video preservation, archives management, intellectual property rights, and a strategic planning workshop for a national audio-visual archive. Members of Sofia have also represented the country in international seminars and conferences.

The organization has also started to conduct a course in Organizing and Maintaining Audio-Visual Collections for the University of the Philippines College of Library Science. Sofia is also active in the SEAPAVAA (Southeast Asia and Pacific Audio-Visual Archives Association), which it helped to organize.

While Sofia has focused attention on the urgent need to save what is left of the country's film heritage, a concerted effort of the government and the industry is necessary to make any archival program of restoration and preservation viable. Sofia has been lobbying for a national audio-visual archive. In 1998, it joined a task force composed of the Philippine Information Agency, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts to look into the possibilities of such an archive. The task force was joined by consultants from Australia (Mark Nizette) and Germany (Harald Brandes).

It surveyed the country for the most suitable place for an audio-visual archive. Among three possible sites, the National Arts Center on Mount Makiling in Laguna was chosen not only for its relatively cool climate the whole year round, but more particularly for its low humidity. The Cultural Center of the Philippines, which owns the property of the National Arts Center, even offered to reserve the area for the archive.

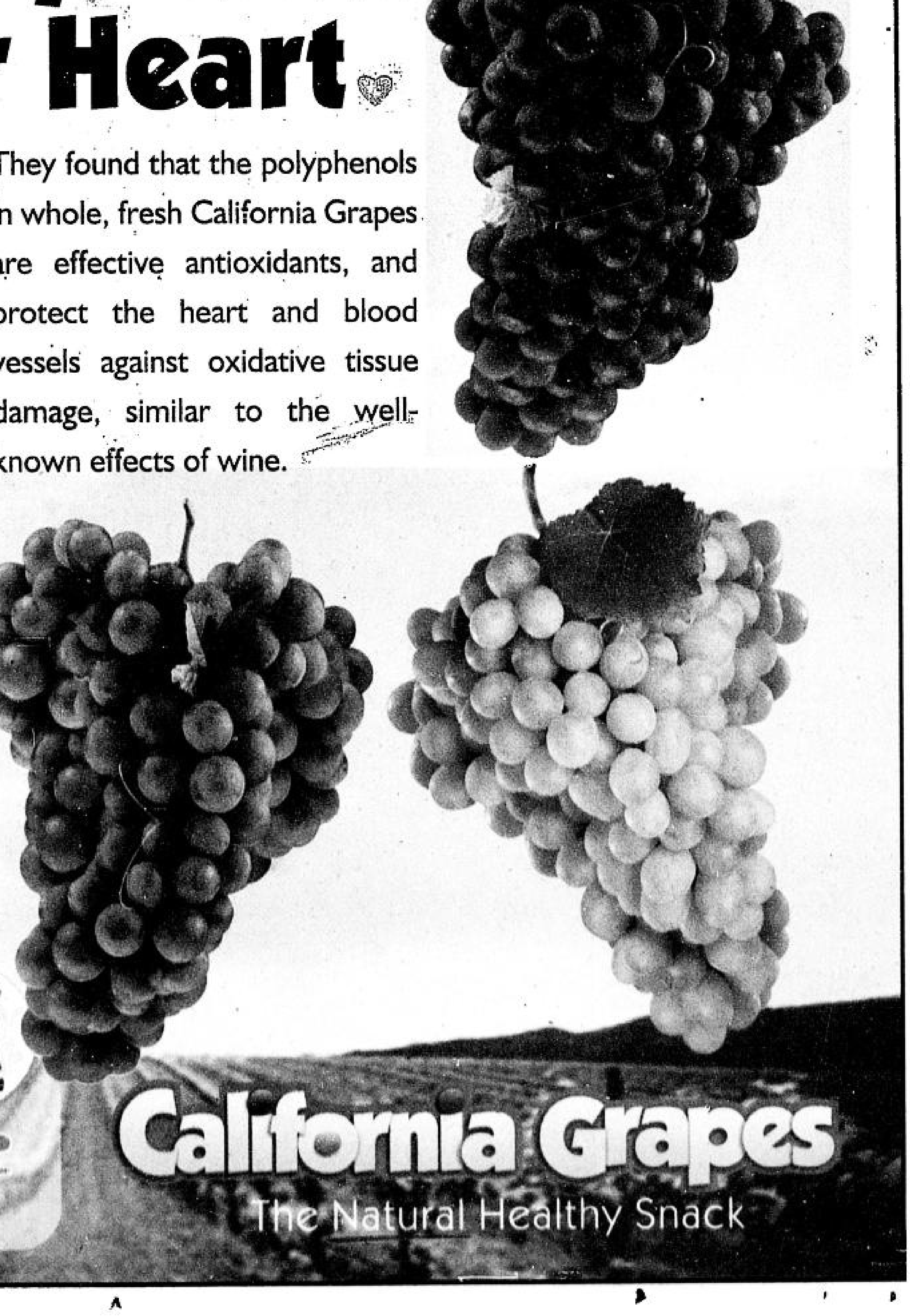
A study was made by the architects who designed the National Arts Center and the requirements that would meet international standards were listed. At the time of study, the estimated budget for the structure alone was approximately P200 million.

Sofia, of course, is convinced about the necessity of a national audio-visual archive. However, lawmakers in whose hands lies the future of the proposed archive need a lot of convincing. In a country that is beset by poverty and pressured by economic and political problems, it may be a tall order to convince lawmakers that a national audio-visual archive should be in their list of priorities. The production of the movie industry which is ruled by crass commercialism does not help the cause at all. Archiving trash is not a convincing argument.

How does the future in Philippine audio-visual archiving look? In my view, I think it is going to be a continuing story of little archives struggling to survive, fighting against the ravages of time, hoping to freeze the disintegration of the country's audio-visual heritage.

While it is going to be basically a story of each archive taking care of its own preferred collection, there must be some way to elect and save the main works that are worthy to be canonized. In this regard, I think an organization like Sofia should spearhead this project. A ruthless form of selection must be done, simply because the resources will not allow for comprehensive archiving. The least that the country can do is to preserve this canon of Philippine Cinema.

At this point, it does not matter where these elected films are archived; the goal is to find a hospitable place for each elected film that is in danger of extinction. In the meantime, the national audio-visual archive will remain a dream.



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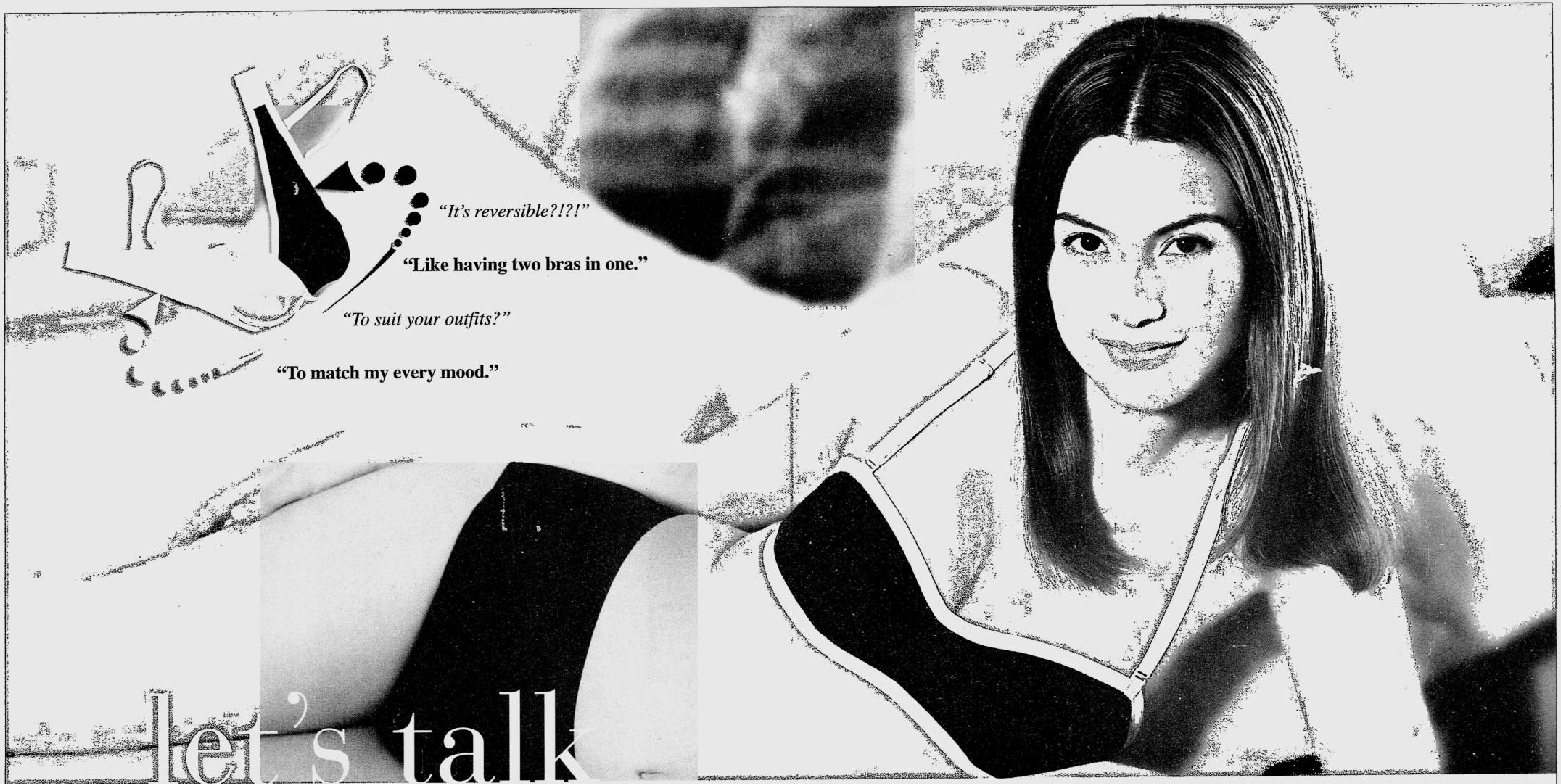

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'Swimfan' scares up box office honors

MYERS. His new film has made more than $200M in seven weeks of release.

LOS ANGELES—The teenage obsession flick "Swimfan" staked its claim to first place at the box office during the last weekend, earning $11.3 million in its debut.

Independent hit

The low-budget independent hit "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" held on to its solid second-place showing, earning $10.4 million.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Nielsen EDI Inc. are:

1. "Swimfan," Fox, $11.3 million, 2,856 locations, $3,966 average, $11.3 million, one week.
2. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," IFC Films, $10.4 million, 1,695 locations, $6,119 average, $95.8 million, 21 weeks.
3. "City by the Sea," Warner Bros., $8.9 million, 2,575 locations, $3,470 average, $8.9 million, one week.
4. "Signs," Disney, $7.9 million, 3,232 locations, $2,429 average, $206 million, six weeks.
5. "XXX," Sony, $5.2 million, 3,088 locations, $1,686 average, $131 million, five weeks.

'Spy Kids 2'

6. "Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams," Miramax, $3 million, 2,821 locations, $1,071 average, $74 million, five weeks.
7. "Austin Powers in Goldmember," New Line, $2.7 million, 2,102 locations, $1,295 average, $207 million, seven weeks.
8. "fear dot com," Warner Bros., $2.4 million, 2,550 locations, $922 average, $10.5 million, two weeks.
9. "Spider-Man/Men in Black 2," (double feature), Sony, $2.1 million, 2,078 locations, $1,016 average, $2.1 million, one week.
10. "Blue Crush," Universal, $1.9 million, 2,009 locations, $935 average, $37.3 million, four weeks.
11. "Serving Sara," Paramount, $1.7 million, 2,063 locations, $842 average, $14.3 million, three weeks.

'The Good Girl'

12. "The Good Girl," Fox Searchlight, $1.6 million, 688 locations, $2,330 average, $9.8 million, five weeks.
13. "One Hour Photo," Fox Searchlight, $1.5 million, 173 locations, $8,706 average, $5.9 million, three weeks.
14. "Road to Perdition," DreamWorks, $1.3 million, 1,420 locations, $900 average, $101 million, nine weeks.
15. "Undisputed," Miramax, $1.2 million, 1,002 locations, $1,217 average, $10.8 million, three weeks.
16. "Possession," Focus Features, $976,926, 616 locations, $1,586 average, $7.9 million, four weeks.

'Bloodwork'

17. "Bloodwork," Warner Bros., $678,483, 1,150 locations, $590 average, $25.2 million, five weeks.
18. "The Master of Disguise," Sony, $670,201, 864 locations, $776 average, $38.2 million, six weeks.
19. "Simone," New Line, $564,577, 1,126 locations, $501 average, $9 million, three weeks.
20. "The Bourne Identity," Universal, $534,085, 436 locations, $1,225 average, $119 million, 13 weeks.

AP

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SATURDAY*Special*

MULLAN. His film won over 20 other competing productions.

'Magdalene Sisters' wins top prize at Venice filmfest

By Shasta Darlington

VENICE—Peter Mullan's "The Magdalene Sisters," an unflinching look at abuse and cruelty inside one of Ireland's Catholic charitable institutions, won the Venice Film Festival's Golden Lion on Sunday.

True story

The movie, denounced by the Vatican newspaper, tells the true story of four supposedly promiscuous girls interned in the Magdalene Asylums in the 1960s, forced to work as virtual slaves in laundries and abused by the Sisters of Mercy.

"This is a great honor," said the Scottish director, who wore a deep blue kilt and purple velvet jacket as he accepted the golden trophy for his second feature. It was selected from among 21 competing films.

"The film is not just about the Catholic Church and how they repress young women in Ireland, it's about all faiths that think they have the right to pressure women," said Mullan, best known as the star of "My Name Is Joe." "But if they can free themselves in their minds, they can start to fight back." The movie's world premiere was warmly received by audiences at the world's oldest film festi-

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MORE THAN A WOMAN	morethan	AALIYAH
PRAISE YOU	praiseyou	FATBOY SLIM
RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW	righther	FATBOY SLIM
ROCKFELLA SKANK	rockfela	FATBOY SLIM
GANGSTER TRIPPING	gangster	FATBOY SLIM
THIS I PROMISE YOU	thisipro	NSYNC
BECAUSE I GET HIGH	igethigh	AFROMAN
WHAT CAN I DO	whatcani	THE CORRS
FULL MOON	fullmoon	BRANDY
ALL YOU WANTED	youwanted	MICHELLE BRANCH
HOW YOU REMIND ME	howyoure	NICKELBACK
BLURRY	blurry	PUDDLE OF MUD
SOAK UP THE SUN	soakup	SHERYL CROW
ONLY HOPE	onlyhope	MANDY MOORE
I NEED YOU	ineedyou	LEANNE RHYMES
A THOUSAND MILES	athousan	VANESSA CARLTON
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Jeff Corwin shows that science can be fun

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q & A:

From *Marilou Yumul of Pasay*, "I have always been a fan of cable's science-and-travel shows because they offer refreshing options to the usual tv fare. Recently, though, I have become hooked more and more on Animal Planet's "The Jeff Corwin Experience" because its host is not just knowledgeable and brave (like "Crocodile Hunter's" Steve Irwin) but funny and easy on the eyes, as well. Please write about him."

Jeff Corwin's semi-serious, semi-slapstick hosting style (not to mention his movie-star looks) sure has lent him some sort of celebrity and a loyal fan base. Critics describe his show as "a nature show that's reinventing its genre" for successfully blending scientific gobbledygook with edge-of your seat entertainment.

Zaniness

If Steve Irwin thrills by wrestling with alligators while spewing his famous Aussie slang, Corwin entertains his followers with his quick-witted improvs and impromptu zaniness while chasing venomous rattlesnakes.

Jeff was born in Canada in 1967. The 5'11" herpetologist, best-known for his wicked sense of humor, great comic timing and his "uniform" (short-sleeved iridescent blue or yellow tight shirt invariably tucked into pleated shorts or blue jeans), has two bachelor's degrees in biology and anthropology, and a master's degree in natural resources conservation. His wife, Natasha, a doctoral candidate in comparative literature, is Russian-born and is five years younger. They live on an island off the coast of Massachusetts.

Jeff started in Disney's "Going Wild with Jeff Corwin" but the show folded after two years (1997-1999). "The Jeff Corwin Experience" premiered on December 3, 2000 on Animal Planet (and is telecast here Fridays at 1 p.m., and Saturdays at 9 a.m.).

The transfer has made him even more successful, landing him in People's "50 Most Beautiful People List in 2002" last May, and Entertainment Weekly's "It List" in July. He has become so popular that he receives dozens of "indecent proposals" and fan mail from gay men and heterosexual women prone to attaching photos of themselves in lacey undergarments.

13 episodes

He spends nine months a year traveling to shoot 13 episodes of the show. He owns a snapping turtle, the largest toad in captivity, a big-eared African fox and eight snakes. A reformed "fat kid," he jogs 40 miles a week.

But it hasn't been easy for Jeff on the road. He once crash-landed in a hot-air balloon while on-cam ("I remembered it as this powerful, silent moment, only to find, when we played it back, four grown men screaming like banshees," he says).

He has endured a shoulder bite from a young tiger in Thailand, a lion that tried to swallow his head, a bear bite on his wrist, an African hyena that got a mouthful of his ass, and a venomous coral snake that bit him on the toe and almost killed him. (He explains, "A normal healthy man only has four hours to get an anti-venom, and you can't panic because an increased heartrate only pumps the poison faster through the body.")

In a recent issue of Men's Fitness, he reveals that the most disgusting thing he has eaten on the show is the Sago worm, the larva of the rhinoceros beetle dug out of palm trees in Borneo. Another "delicacy" he has tried: "Honey-pot ants in Australia. They store sugar in their abdomen and they swell up to almost the size of a grape. And they burst in your mouth, like bottles of warm maple syrup!" Pretty exciting job!

CORWIN. Funny and easy on the eyes.

From *Alvin Panolo of Makati*, "I have been a fan of Kim Basinger since she played Vicki Vale in "Batman" and won an Oscar in "L.A. Confidential." Any trivia on her?"

Funny how time flies. Do you know that Kim is turning 50 on Dec. 3 next year? She sure doesn't look her age. Your idol has led a pretty colorful, albeit controversial, life. She is the first James Bond (1983's "Never Say Never Again") girl to win an Oscar. (Halle Berry's participation in the latest Bond flick, "Die Another Day," makes her only the second.)

Beauty queen

She was a former cheerleader, a beauty queen (Junior Miss Georgia), a top Ford model at age 20 (who commanded $1,000 per day in the '70s) and a Playboy pin-up.

She "bought" the entire town of Braselton, Georgia in the US for $20 million, only to give it up later when she had to declare bankruptcy. She used to have agoraphobia (fear of open spaces) which sometimes kept her housebound for up to six months at a time.

She and Alec Baldwin divorced in June last year after eight years of marriage and a daughter, Ireland. She plays Eminem's mother in the rap/hiphop star's movie debut, "8 Miles."

'Far from Heaven' probes racism, sexual repression

By Shasta Darlington

VENICE, Italy—Todd Haynes' drama "Far from Heaven" is set in what many believe to be a long-gone era of the 1950s ruled by racial prejudice and repression, but the director says little has changed in the last half century.

Perfect housewife

The off-beat film, which recently staged its world premiere at the 59th Venice Film Festival, where it won several awards, stars Julianne Moore as a perfect housewife in suburban America and Dennis Quaid as a successful businessman, whose marriage crumbles after his wife finds him passionately kissing another man.

The movie "typifies the big themes of American culture that are still unresolved from this period," Haynes, exponent of the new queer cinema genre, told Reuters Television.

"It was an education about our assumptions about reality," said the laid-back native son of Los Angeles.

Haynes directed cult favorite "Velvet Goldmine" in 1998, about the rise and fall of a fictional glam-rock star and "Poison" in 1995, slammed by right wing critics as pornographic.

MOORE. Loss of innocence.

Black gardener

"Far from Heaven" starts off looking like a brightly coloured Doris Day movie but suddenly turns sour when Cathy Whitaker, played by Moore, discovers her husband with another man and then seeks solace with her black gardener.

"It's a very sad story that really could be told today in America, about these people who look amazing and sound amazing and move like none of us but are very fragile," said the 41-year-old director. "They really are more like us."

No Hollywood ending

The film is inspired by Hollywood's golden era, particularly Douglas Sirk's 1954 classic "All that Heaven Allows." But Haynes' version does not have a happy Hollywood ending.

Cathy suddenly finds herself abandoned by her husband as he comes to terms with his sexuality, and is ostracized by society for her friendship with the gardener.

Moore, star of "Boogie Nights," "End of the Affair" and "Hannibal," said the film was about the loss of innocence.

American optimism

"Cathy represents American optimism. Anything is possible, we can change the world. But then she stops smiling," Moore said, adding that the emotions in the film, which was shot just weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, were a reflection of the emotions America was experiencing.

"It's about losing illusions and becoming wiser," she said.

"There was a time after Sept. 11 that it felt like all that optimism was over, but what has happened in the ensuing year . . . has showed it is possible to rebound from the event."

"Far from Heaven" is a departure from Haynes' more outrageous films like "Velvet Goldmine" and "Safe" about a housewife who discovers she is allergic to the 20th century. *Reuters*

'Magdalene Sisters' wins top Venice . . .

From page D1

val, but rapped by the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano as an "angry and rancorous provocation" that misrepresented religious leaders.

Four prizes

"To say that my movie is a scandal is absurd," Mullan later said in a news conference. "I didn't create the Magdalene Asylums, they created them. I just wanted to expose one of the great injustices of the second half of the 20th century." Four years ago, Mullan's directorial debut "Orphans," about a working-class Glasgow family, won four prizes in one of Venice's sidebar competitions.

Julianne Moore won best actress for her role as a perfect 1950s American housewife whose life falls apart in "Far from Heaven," and Italy's Stefano Accorsi took home the prize for best actor for his portrayal of poet Dino Campana in "Un Viaggio Chiamato Amore" (A Journey Called Love).

Todd Haynes' "Far from Heaven" also garnered a second prize, the "outstanding individual contribution" award which went to director of photography Ed Lachman.

Moore, who was not able to attend the ceremony because it coincided with the film's North American debut, sent a message through Lachman: "This part was (Haynes') great gift to me . . . I thank you for this recognition." The runner-up Jury Grand Prix prize went to "Dom Durakov" (House of Fools), by Russian director Andrei Konchalovsky, which focuses on the inmates in a psychiatric hospital in Chechnya who are completely unaware of the looming war with Russia.

Cerebral palsy

South Korea's "Oasis," about a man who falls in love with a young woman with cerebral palsy, took home two prizes: a special director's award for Lee Chang-dong and the award for best young actor or actress to the lovely Moon So-ri.

Tian Zhuangzhuang's Chinese-language "Xiaocheng Zhi Chun" (Springtime In A Small Town) won the San Marco prize for more cutting-edge works.

A total of 21 feature films competed for the Golden Lion at the 59th Venice Film Festival, and 19 for the San Marco prize. *Reuters*

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Yesterday's singing stars today

WHERE are they now, the singing stars of the '70s? Or, more specifically, how do they sound today? We'll get the answer to that provocative question at 7 p.m. on Sept. 20 and 21, when Eugene Villaluz, Louie Reyes, Ding Mercado, Hajji Alejandro, Pat Castillo and Tillie Moreno perform together in "'70s 2Day" at Music Museum.

Eugene, Louie and Ding were members of the famous showband, the New Minstrels, while Hajji, Pat and Tillie were with the equally popular Circus Band. They later enjoyed more success as solo artists, and Hajji even starred in some movies.

The "'70s 2Day" concert is directed by the very creative Leo Rialp, with Mel Villena as musical director. Call 891-5610.

Movies on TV

On the HBO film channel: Saturday, Sept. 14 at 2:45 p.m., "Roxanne." 6 p.m., "Billy Madison." 2:15 a.m., "Scent of a Woman."

Sunday, Sept. 15, at 8 p.m., "The Perfect Storm." 12:15 a.m., "The Age of Innocence." 4:15 a.m., "What Planet Are You From?" Monday, Sept. 16 at 7:30 a.m., "Evolution's Child. 4 p.m., "The Paper."

Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 1:30 p.m., "Nowhere to Run." 4:30 p.m., "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."

Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 7:15 p.m., "The Running Man." 10:30 p.m., "K-911." 2:15 a.m., "Mask."

Thursday, Sept. 19 at 11 a.m., "The Gift." 6 p.m., "Journey to the Center of the Earth."

Friday, Sept. 20 at 8:30 a.m., "Real Genius." 6 p.m., "A Night at the Roxbury."

On Star Mandarin Movies at 9 p.m. today, "La Brassiere" pokes fun at everything in Hong Kong, from fashions to gender differences. With Louis Koo, Lau Ching Wan and Carina Lau.

And on Star Movies at 9 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15, "Harrison's Flowers" is a powerhouse film about war and journalism.

In the film, Sarah embarks on a perilous journey to find her missing husband, Harrison, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist on assignment abroad. He's presumed dead, but Sarah is hell-bent on finding him.

The movie stars Andie MacDowell, Marie Trintignant and David Strathairn.

Feedback

From Charisse Olegario of Cebu City: "The level of public responsibility and accountability of some TV programs is perceptibly going down. We viewers are often assaulted these days by graphic images or vulgar statements that show that programming standards on TV have deteriorated.

"We urge the people behind these erring shows to remember that the welfare of viewers cannot be ignored in the effort to attain greater popularity. Young viewers are especially vulnerable to negative influences, so they have to be protected more.

"The 'Parental Guidance' notices flashed on the screen are no help because parents are often busy or out of the house these days, so minors are left without guidance.

"The best solution is for TV programs to be produced more responsibly. Don't the people who produce them have young children of their own? They should use their kids' reactions as their guide to what should and should not be shown on the TV screen."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

CD and VCD 'ukay-ukay'

Every Friday and Saturday this month, a sale of CDs and VCDs is being held at the third floor of Universal Tower bldg., 1487 Quezon ave. near the corner of Examiner st. in Quezon City, from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Albums on "*ukay-ukay*" sale are from Decca, Deutsch Gramaphone, Verve, MCA, Island, Philips, VMP, JVC, Arcade, Shanache, Heads Up, Sindrom, Pony Canyon, Avex, Dance Bug, Form Records, 4AD, Acid Jazz, Dan Siegeu, Warlock, Toco, Intersound, Polystar, PolyEast Records, Dyna's Dypro label—etc! Call 373-9091.

'Digital LG Quiz Show' finals

At the end of the month, the popular "Digital LG Quiz Show" will be holding its grand finals. Competing in that exciting event is Laurence Lloyd Parial of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, the third quarterly champion, who bested three other monthly champions last Aug. 11.

The program's quizmasters are Paolo Bediones and Regine Tolentino, and its director is Pat Perez.

Family of musicians on The World of Music

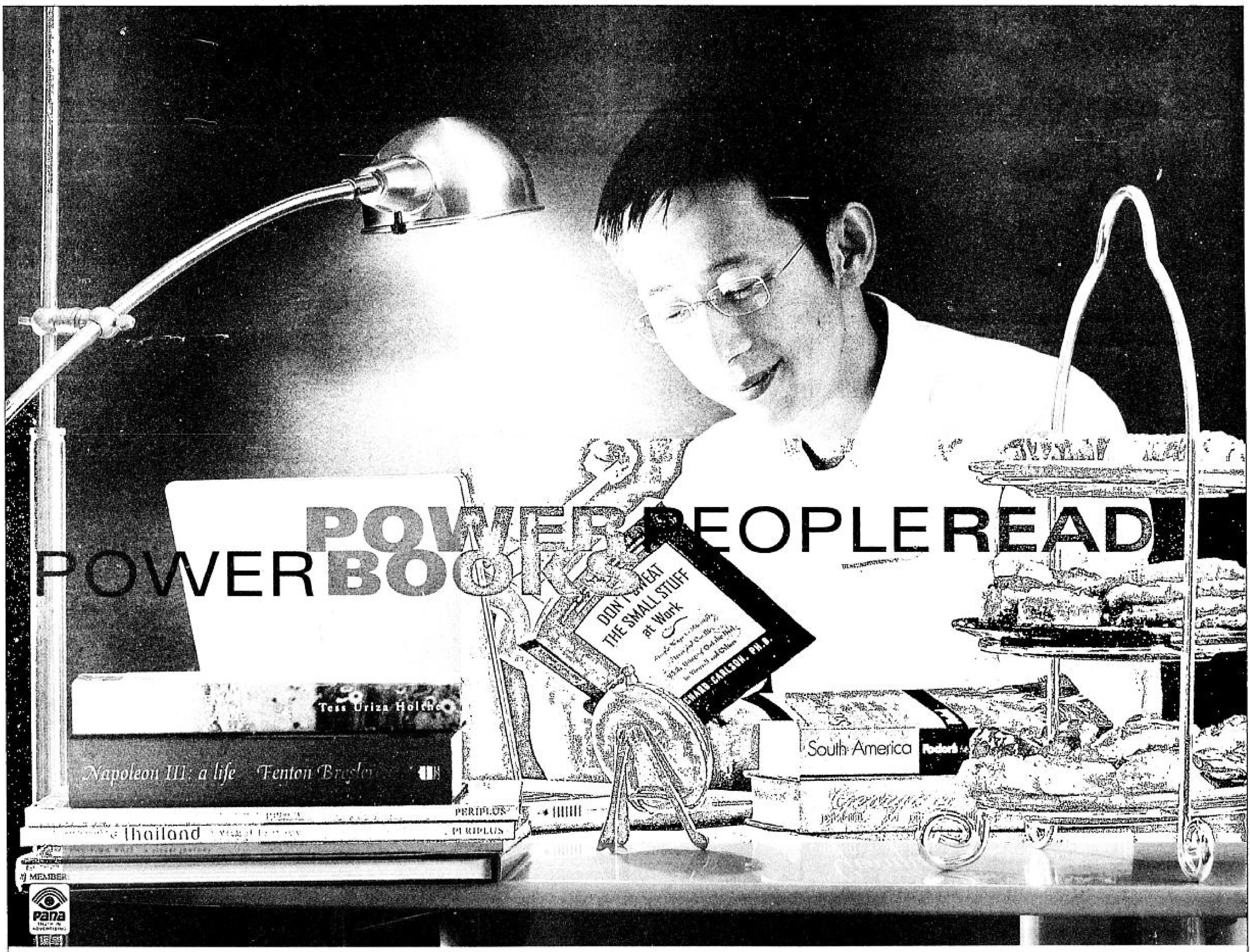
Musical talent runs in the Sarreal family. Five of its members are winners of the National Arts and Music Competition for Youth Awards. The musician-siblings are Robert (clarinet, alto sax, bassoon), John Raymond (flute), Joseph Gideon (trumpet), Jacob Gabriel (saxophone, clarinet), Agnes Dominique (french horn, trumpet), and Ageline Celeste (clarinet, soprano sax).

They will topbill the second offering of The World of Music at The Podium in Mandaluyong City at 5 p.m. today, Sept. 14., together with John Lesaca and Prof. Johnny Ramos.

They will interact with the audience in a show-and-tell musical format designed to promote music appreciation among Filipinos. The innovative show is presented by Montre, and Rado, Tissot and Mido watches of Switzerland. Call 726-1953.

'70S SINGING STARS. From top, clockwise, Villaluz, Mercado, Castillo, Reyes, Alejandro, and (center) Moreno.

THE SARREAL musician-siblings with their instruments.



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TAGOS SA LAMAN

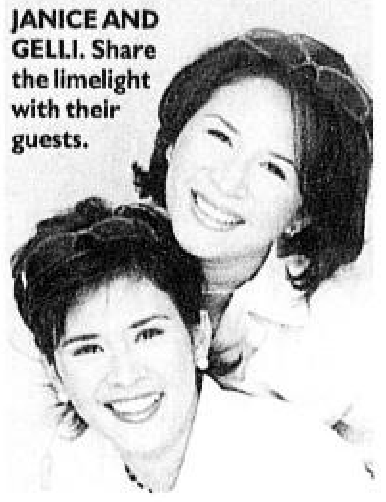
Janice and Gelli de Belen are more comfortable hosting 'Sis'

By Jocelyn Valle

ON THE first taping day of Channel 7's "Sis," director Louie Ignacio remembers, hosts Janice and Gelli de Belen lacked confidence in handling the talk show. The stellar siblings agree: "*Nakakabigla*," Janice recalls. Gelli adds, "We were very nervous!"

Banter

But since they are sisters, Janice and Gelli had rapport with each other. Their on-air banter came off naturally. It also helped that the production added more interesting portions that required the hosts' full participation.



JANICE AND GELLI. Share the limelight with their guests.

The hosts know how to share the limelight with their guests. Sometimes, they even let their guests outtalk them, like in the episode where their guests were vivacious child stars.

"Now," *Direk* Louie smiles, "ready *na silang maging* talk show queens. *Tanggap na sila ng* viewers." He adds that Janice's strength is her sincerity, while Gelli's asset is her candidness.

Contrasting personalities

Gelli agrees that she and her sister have contrasting personalities, and that makes hosting "Sis" interesting and fun, she asserts. "Serious *siya; ako, hindi*," she laughs.

Janice, on the other hand, credits her rich experience in making her a sensitive host.

She finds her sister's humor a big factor in enlivening their show. "I hate butting in during discussions," she says. "*Pero kapag kaming dalawa ni* Gelli *ang nagkasabay na magsalita*, automatic *'yan na tatahimik 'yung isa*."

After a year, both Janice and Gelli feel that they've improved as hosts. "We're more comfortable now," Janice happily shares.

Spontaneity

As much as possible, they avoid talking to their guests before taping commences. "*Nawawala kasi ang* spontaneity," they chorus. Gelli doesn't see any difference in interviewing a guest who's a personal friend and someone who's not. But Janice feels the need to protect guests, especially if they are her friends. Luckily, she says, "Sis" is not as controversial as her other show on Channel 7, "S-Files."

On its first year, "Sis" has covered a gamut of topics, but Janice wishes that they could feature more relevant subjects, like breast cancer, in the future. For her part, Gelli, won't tell what's in store for "Sis" viewers. "*Baka maunahan kami*," she quips.

'Millionaire' recovers from disastrous fire

By Edmund L. Sicam

AFTER a long hiatus, Christopher de Leon and "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" are back on the air (Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 8 p.m. on Channel 13) with all-new episodes, a new set, and harder and more challenging questions.

Big damage

"Yes, we suffered big damage from the fire that razed our set. *Hanggang ngayon*, we're still struggling," Christopher confesses to us during a press conference called at the site of the new "WW2BAM" set. "That's why we're all here today," he says, chuckling, "to let people know that we're back, and *hindi na mga* replays, all originals."

Boyet is satisfied with the new set. Although its location is farther from his house, he says that the new set is a lot better than the first one.

Boyet talks to us about some things that go on behind the scenes, and how it is to be the host of one of Philippine television's most popular game shows. He reveals that after so many seasons, the questions on the show are getting harder. "*Nawawalan na kasi ng madadaling tanong!* Specially after P100,000, *mabigat na iyon*."

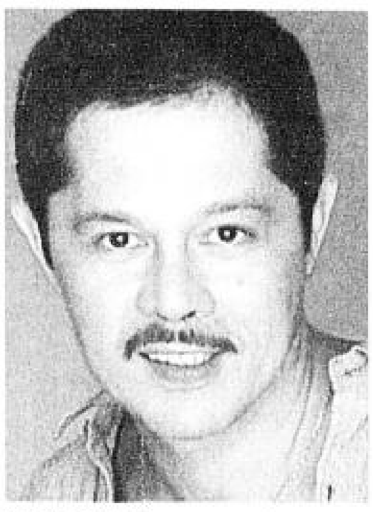
He tells us that the screen in front of him during the show tells him everything he needs to know. However, he does not know the correct answer until the contestant says the popular phrase, "Final answer." The screen tells him whether the contestant's answer is correct or not, and then gives him the correct answer.

So there are times when Boyet offers the contestant a check even if he does not know whether the answer is correct or not. "But more often, *alam natin* (even without seeing the correct answer on the screen)! *Kaya minsan gusto mong ibigay yung tseke. Alam mong mali yung* answer, *parang, 'Sige na, kunin mo na, sayang din ito!' Pero meron pa ring iba na matitigas ang ulo, hindi nila ako nababasa!*"

Pronunciation guide

Boyet also shares that his little screen provides a pronunciation guide for him when there are particularly difficult words that come out in the questions. "*Pero pag mahirap na, ibubulong na lang sa akin, 'Uy may mahirap na dadating diyan.' Titingnan ko na sa* monitor *ko*. Beforehand, *alam mo na ang sasabihin mo*."

Christopher makes sure he gets to know the contestants a bit before they get to sit in the "hot seat." "*Pag napili na sila*, I get to interview them."



DE LEON. No more replays.

Boyet tells us that there is such a thing as the professional gameshow contestant. On "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," the rule is that contestants may join again only six months after being on the "hot seat." Boyet says that there have been several contestants who have found a way to get through the tough phone selection process and have made it to the hot seat several times.

Boyet cites Stanley Cabrera, who has been on their show several times, and has won about P800,000 in all. This is the same guy who won P1.8 million on Kris Aquino's show, "Game Ka Na Ba?" Often, when these professional contestants "phone-a-friend," they call one of the other members of the group. "*May* cut *iyon!*" says Boyet.

Prizes

The host is quick to defend his show when people ask how it can keep up with the other shows that are giving away more than a million pesos to their contestants, while they give away only P200,000 or P300,000. Christopher explains, "*Kung mapapansin mo*, we get about three contestants per episode. If the first makes P200,000, then the next makes another P200,000 and the last makes P300,000, that's close to a million!"

In spite of the troubles the show went through, it has survived and will continue filling the viewers' insatiable appetite for game shows. Although they admit their commercial load is not what it used to be, they say that they are doing pretty well—aside from the fact that they get a lot of texters, (about 100,000 a day) who join the texting game, plus callers on the PLDT landline. They are still a long way from packing up their set for good.

Old age hasn't dulled Art Linkletter's ever-youthful wit

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

AMONG our favorites in Linkletter's book, "I Wish I'd Said That!," is the exchange between Groucho Marx and Greta Garbo where the master ad-libber is outquipped. Recalls Linkletter:

Repartee

"I can think of only one occasion when Groucho was bested in repartee. The winner, of all people, was Greta Garbo. Groucho once spotted her sitting alone in the Palm Room of the Plaza Hotel. She had on a huge droopy hat, and Groucho couldn't resist a sudden impulse. He sidled up to her, lifted the brim of the hat and peeked under it.

"'Pardon,' he said, 'but I thought you were a fellow I met at Sweeney's Bar.' Ms Garbo gave him a glacial stare. 'But I am not,' she said.

"Groucho was flustered for once in his life. Feeling a word of explanation was due, he stammered, 'I'm sorry—I'm Groucho Marx.' Ms Garbo continued to stare and said very simply, 'That is too bad.' "

Another good one is by the queen of the quick retort, Dorothy Parker:

"As Ms Parker was about to make her way into the powder room, she nearly collided with a catty young actress who was not universally beloved. The actress dramatically deferred to Ms Parker, saying, 'Age before beauty.' Ms Parker stepped through the door ahead of the lass, turned her head, and said with a smile, 'And pearls before swine.'"

Musicians

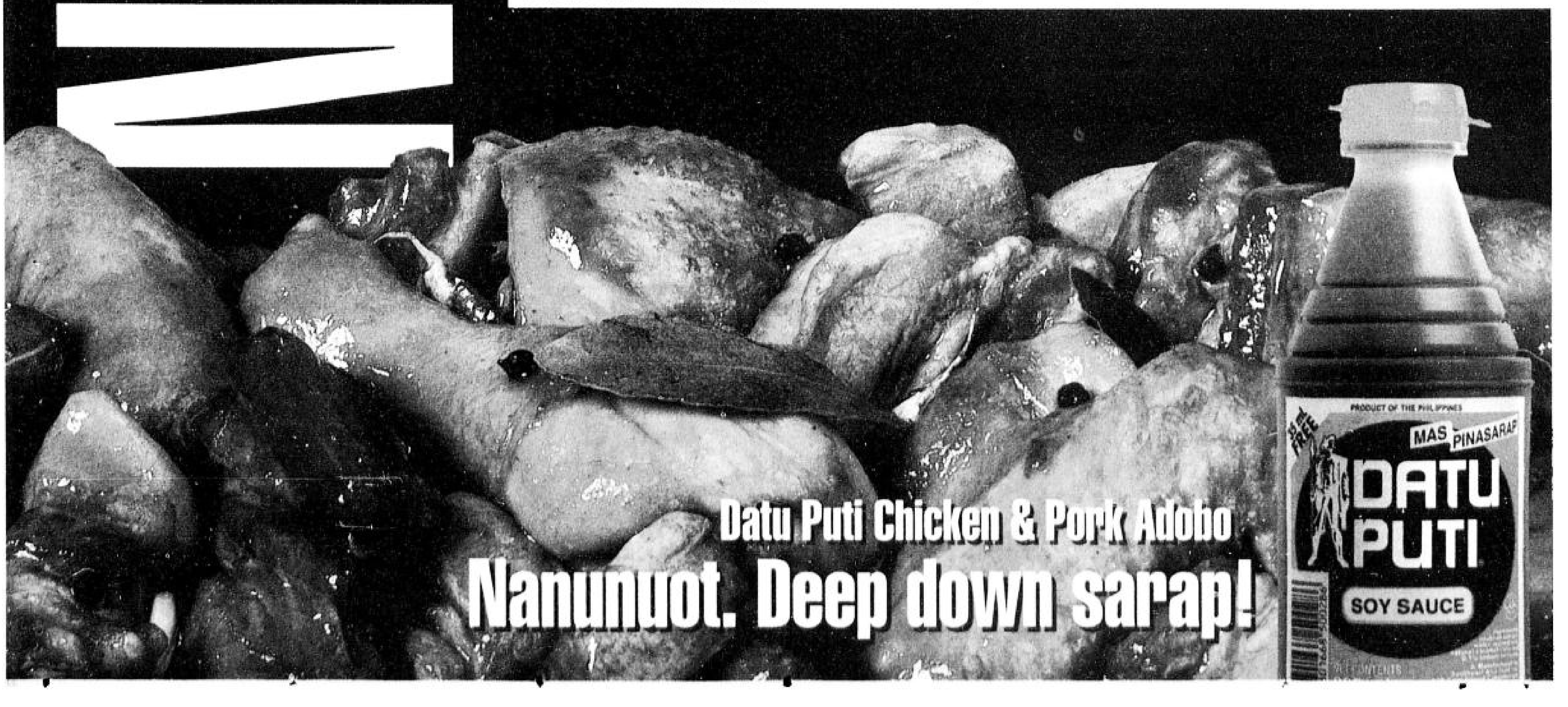
Brava for Ms Parker! Our other favorites are about musicians and geniuses. Here's one concerning Mozart and a young music student who asked him how to write a symphony:

"Mozart told the ambitious young man to begin with something simple—like ballads. 'But you composed symphonies when you were only *10* years old,' objected the youth. 'True,' replied Mozart, 'but I didn't ask how.' "

Oo nga naman, we thought. One other musician-genius encounter involves Albert Einstein, who was an amateur violinist:

"Once at Princeton, he was visited by Jascha Heifetz, Gregor Piatgorsky, and Artur Rubinstein. They suggested that Einstein join them in a little chamber music. He jumped at the opportunity and quickly produced his violin to join the group in a delicate Mozart quartet. After a few moments, Rubinstein looked up in

OLD D5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SWITCHING CHANNELS

Mother Lily's grand 'tampo'

By Edmund L. Sicam

REGAL's matriarch, Mother Lily Monteverde, prefers to stay in the background and let her stars and directors face the press in promoting her movies. Last week, however, there were no stars and directors at a presscon which was held at a function room of the Imperial Palace Hotel. Instead, Mother Lily herself faced the TV cameras and the print media, not to promote her forthcoming movies but to make public her grand *tampo*.

It seems a glossy magazine had arranged for s special issue on Regal Films, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, so the editor asked Mother to round up all her Regal babies for the cover of the magazine. One of those she asked to join the pictorial was Aga Muhlach, who had made several films for Regal after doing a handful for Viva. She considers Aga a Regal "baby."

There must have been a miscommunication because Aga was not able to make it to the shoot. Others added fuel to the fire by saying that the actor isn't an original Regal baby unlike say, Dina Bonnevie and Snooky Serna. Mother felt bad that one of the actors whom she had helped when he was just starting could not do a small favor for her by joining the pictorial.

During the presscon, it was obvious that the Regal boss was more hurt than angry. She actually shed tears at one point. Although she didn't say it directly, all she wanted was for Aga to acknowledge her contribution to his successful career.

Like Mother's movies, however, we're sure this episode will have a happy ending. It's just a matter of the parties involved getting together and realizing that nothing ever comes out of long, drawn-out *tampuhans*.

Will 'Prosti' be X-rated?

Speaking of Mother, she's on pins and needles again because her next movie "Prosti" is up for review at the MTRCB. Even if the movie's playdate isn't until next month, she has already submitted it for review, anticipating how the MTRCB committee will react to the delicate nature of the movie. Her last movie "Laman" had to go through three reviews before it was approved for screening. The movie is doing well, according to Mother.

Director Erik Matti told us that he was responsive to issues that might be raised by women's groups. In fact, he would consult scriptwriter Raquel Villavicencio to check if a scene he was shooting would pass muster. Raquel didn't find anything wrong with the story and the way the subject was handled. Others may say she is biased because she's part of the cast but we can vouch for her objectivity.

Like Erik's other movies, the film has a dark ending, though the director says he put in some light touches. "Prosti" doesn't present the prostitutes as victims, but as women trying to earn a living while coping with the problems presented by their profession.

Patrick is 21

We'd like to greet Patrick Garcia, who turns 21 today, a happy birthday. Patrick says he doesn't feel different, it's just another birthday to him. The boyish looking actor looks more like an 18-year-old who's still having a grand time.

Despite his boyish image, he has managed to get many important roles which call for him to display his intensity. His soap "Pangako sa 'Yo" is about to fade out from the screen, but he tells us that he will soon do another show. It will definitely not be a musical because, according to him, he can't carry a tune!

Anniversary show

WRR 101.9 For Life celebrates its sixth anniversary on Sept. 15 with a grand concert at the Sta Lucia East Grand Mall. Performing are Aegis, Moonstar 88, Renz Verano, Michael Laygo, Lloyd Umali, Stage Crew, Andrea del Rosario, Gabriela, Quickie, Quattro and Angela Velez.

Then, on Sept. 18 and 25, the Mall presents "Gay Queen of the East 2002."

GARCIA. Important roles.

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TV NEWS

MONTEVERDE. More hurt than angry.

Old . . . From page D4

annoyance. 'My dear, Dr. Einstein,' he protested, 'what's wrong with you? Can't you count?'"

Imagine telling Einstein he couldn't count!

Finally, one anecdote we thought appropriate, considering Mr. Linkletter's recent nonagenarian status, is this story about two really old men:

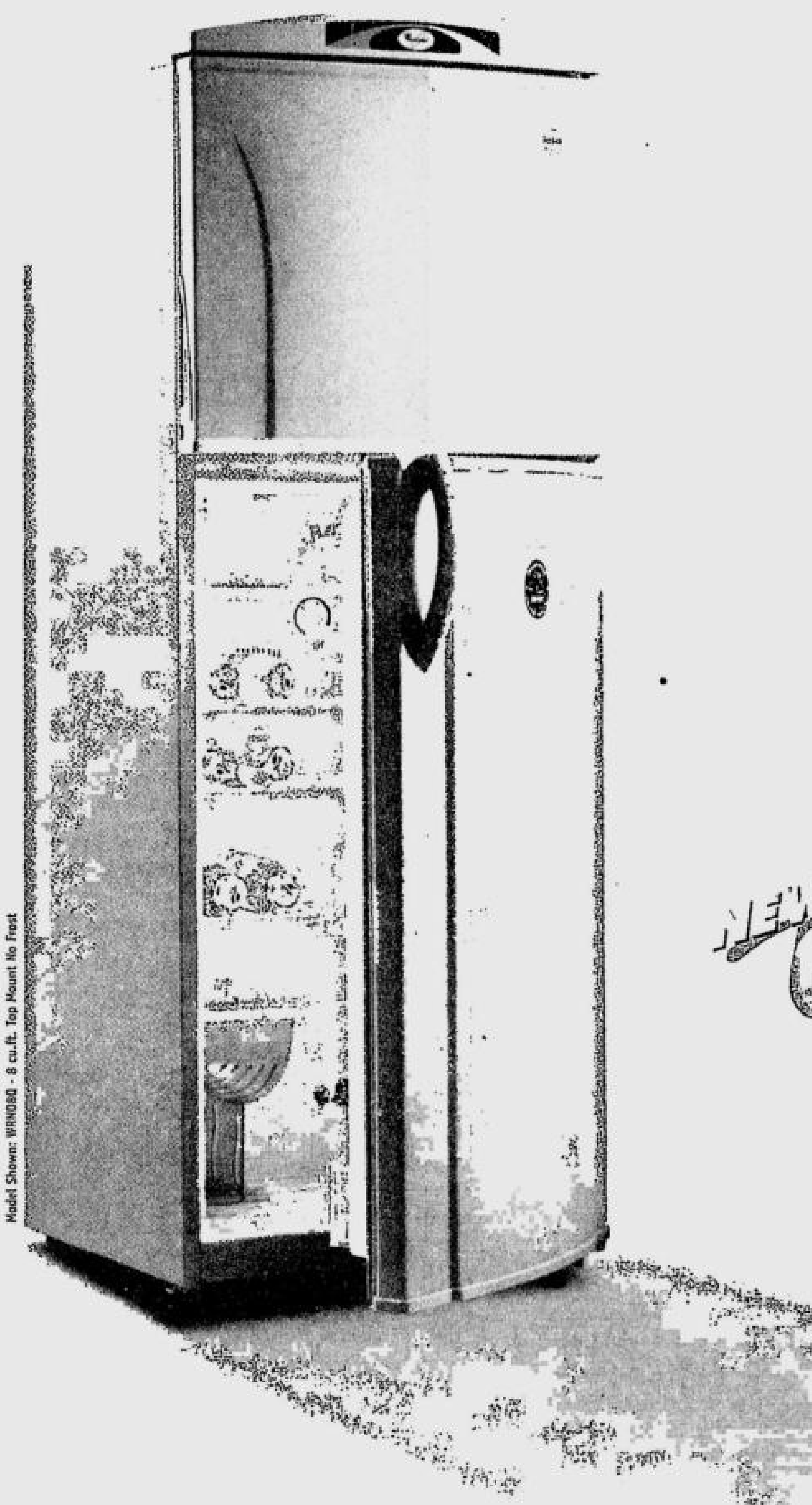
"Some ad-libs are a tribute to the human spirit," he writes. "One windy day, octogenarian Oliver Wendell Holmes was walking down a Washington street with a friend, Chauncey Depew, when the wind whisked up the skirts of a pretty young pedestrian. Sighed Chief Justice Holmes, 'Oh, to be 70 again!'"

Art Linkletter is quite humorously philosophical about old age. His latest book is entitled "Old Age is Not for Sissies"—and a sissy he certainly is not. Still going strong at 90, we hope Art Linkletter will still be around to lighten our hearts for many more years.

Sept. 11 . . . From page D6

mous for their ingenious special effects. In the bin Laden play, cardboard helicopters fly onto the stage with tail lamps blazing. Half-a-dozen American commandos, played by actors in full battle gear, shimmy down ropes onto the stage as tanks roll into the battle zone.

The play ends with the triumph of good over evil as the Afghan housewife, with the support of American and northern alliance soldiers, enters a Taliban hideout. In a twist on recent history, she helps rescue a kidnapped American journalist who had been taken hostage. *AP*



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Broadway shows rebounding from post-Sept. 11 gloom

By Larry Fine

NEW YORK—In the dark days following the attacks of Sept. 11, fear, anxiety and shock led many theatergoers to say, "Give My Regards to Broadway—but I'm staying at home."

One year later, after a healthy dose of the theater world's "The Show Must Go On" spirit, Broadway is back in big business, holding its figurative head high with the help of the first hit show of the new season, this summer's "Hairspray."

JOEL. His songs are featured in "Movin' Out," a new dance musical.

Feel-good musical

The campy, exuberant, feel-good musical based on the 1988 John Waters film of the same name about the big hairdos and social issues of 1962 Baltimore is fueling hopes Broadway will complete a full recovery at the box office.

"Hairspray" stars the unknown Marissa Jaret Winokur as a chunky but spunky teenage Cinderella who becomes a poster girl for a hairspray, integrates the local television rock dance show and gets her man, and froggy-voiced Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein in drag as her mother.

"Hairspray is certainly a big hit," said Jed Bernstein, president of the League of American Theaters and Producers, about the show that last week drew standing-room-only audiences and grossed more than $860,000.

Great buzz

"It has a multimillion dollar advance (sale) and a great buzz, but that's not to say it's the last hit of the season." Attendance is down 3 percent from the year-ago figures 14 weeks into Broadway's new season, said Bernstein, who termed the decline "pretty insignificant" considering the aftermath of 9/11, the downturn in tourism and the ailing economy.

The fall season gets under way in earnest next month, with the scheduled opening of a slew of shows, including "Amour," a translation of the French musical "Le Passe Muraille" featuring music by Michel LeGrand, a new adaptation of the "Flower Drum Song," and "Movin' Out," a dance musical choreographed and directed by Twyla Tharp and featuring songs by Billy Joel.

Farther on the horizon is "Hollywood Arms," co-written by comedienne Carol Burnett, based on her memoir; "Dance of the Vampires," a musical featuring former "Phantom of the Opera" star Michael Crawford; "Imaginary Friends," Nora Ephron's play about feuding writers Lillian Hellman and Mary McCarthy; a revival of "Man of La Mancha," and noted film director Baz Luhrmann's production of the Puccini opera "La Boheme."

The happy vibes of "Hairspray" contrast with the pain and uncertainty that haunted the Great White Way after the cataclysmic toppling of the World Trade Center twin towers that killed about 2,800 people about 4 miles south.

Closing notices

The lights of Broadway were doused for two days. Four shows posted closing notices a week after the attacks, and general box-office revenues plunged by 75 percent.

Tourism, which traditionally provides the lifeblood of the theater business, slowed to a trickle.

Stakes were high not only for Broadway but also for New York's economy.

In the previous season, Broadway contributed more than $4.4 billion to the city's economy, supported 40,000 jobs and reigned as New York's main magnet for tourists, according to the official tourism agency, NYC & Company.

"Of all the tourism attractions, Broadway is number one," said Cristyne Nicholas, president of NYC & Company, noting the approximately 12 million tickets a year sold for shows. "It is greater than the sports teams and the museums in terms of ticket sales."

Broadway battled back with a marketing campaign aimed at drawing a bigger local audience and benefited from government subsidies and sacrifices by the show business community that agreed to pay cuts in the weeks following Sept. 11.

By spring, a nearly full roster of 28 theaters was running shows, and four summer openings—highlighted by "Hairspray" and the well-received "Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune"—offset the usual rate of attrition.

Aftershocks

But the aftershocks of 9/11 are still being felt. The city this week disclosed figures showing a drop of nearly $1 billion in visitor spending during 2001.

"The only worrisome issue at the moment is that advance sales continue to be less robust than usual," Bernstein said.

"At a typical performance, about half the audience has bought their tickets about four weeks in advance and that number right now is 37 to 38 percent, about a third less than we'd like to see it.

"In the immediate aftermath (of Sept. 11), that number had shrunk to 15 percent of the audience, so we've climbed back quite a way from there." In a revival of last winter's successful Season of Savings program some 20 Broadway shows have banded together to offer discounts on tickets, restaurants and parking in hopes of another boost on the road to recovery. *Reuters*

Sept. 11 stage play drawing huge audiences in India

By Wasbir Hussain

NAZIRA, India—Far from the lost twin towers of lower Manhattan, a play on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks by a traveling band of actors is holding audiences spellbound in a remote corner of India.

INDIAN actor Pranab Sarmah prepares to play Osama bin Laden in the production staged by the Sankar-Dev Mobile Theater group.

REUTERS

Tent

Thousands of men, women and children are crowding into a huge canvas tent in Nazira, a small town in northeastern Assam state, to watch two dozen actors dressed in Afghan-style shirts and turbans recreate Taliban country in a play called "Osama bin Laden."

A hush descends on the audience as the stage lights focus on a cave, where an actor playing bin Laden, the mastermind behind the Sept. 11 attacks, gets Taliban fighters to pledge to the destruction of America.

As the scene fades, another part of the stage lights up on a young American soldier, whose life takes a dramatic turn when he's asked to join US troops in Afghanistan.

Traveling on foot, or on bicycles or by bus, the spectators begin lining up for tickets hours before the two daily shows in this sleepy town, 400 kilometers (250 miles) east of Gauhati, Assam's capital.

Curiosity

"Even children have heard of bin Laden. It's curiosity that has made me come," said Dilip Bordoloi, a college teacher among some 4,000 people packed into the tent for the Sankardev Theater's performance last Sunday.

Outside the tent on a soccer field, vendors sell buttered popcorn and pink cotton candy as balloons bob among the throngs waiting for tickets.

Within weeks of the events of Sept. 11, Biswa Saikia, a stocky man in his late 40s who set up the theater group 10 years ago, decided to adapt the events surrounding the attacks for the stage.

"We have succeeded in exposing the fact that bin Laden was actually using Islam to further his own vicious goals and thrust what I call 'Ladenism' in the name of jihad," said director Sewabrata Borua.

The two-hour play in the local Assamese language, with a sprinkling of English and live keyboard music, is performed on adjoining stages.

"The play's message is loud and clear: Islam does not preach violence. It has been used and projected like that by the likes of bin Laden," said scriptwriter Samarendra Barman, a Hindu.

Like much of India, the actors and audience are a mix of Muslims and Hindus who work and live together with ease. And like the leaders of this South Asian nation, the audience backed the Americans and scorned the acts of the Taliban and bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Anger

Some in the audience threw up their hands in anger and hid their faces when Taliban fighters were depicted killing two Afghan teenagers.

"I'm not much of a theatergoer. But I decided to see 'Laden' after reading so much about his terror acts," said Minoti Bora, a college student. "I got a fair idea of how bad the Taliban was."

The Sankardev Theater group is a small community of some 100 actors, technicians, cooks and assistants who are on the road for an eight-month season beginning each August.

"I have not seen even a single television image of the twin towers being attacked and crashing," said Pranab Sarma, who plays bin Laden.

Photographs

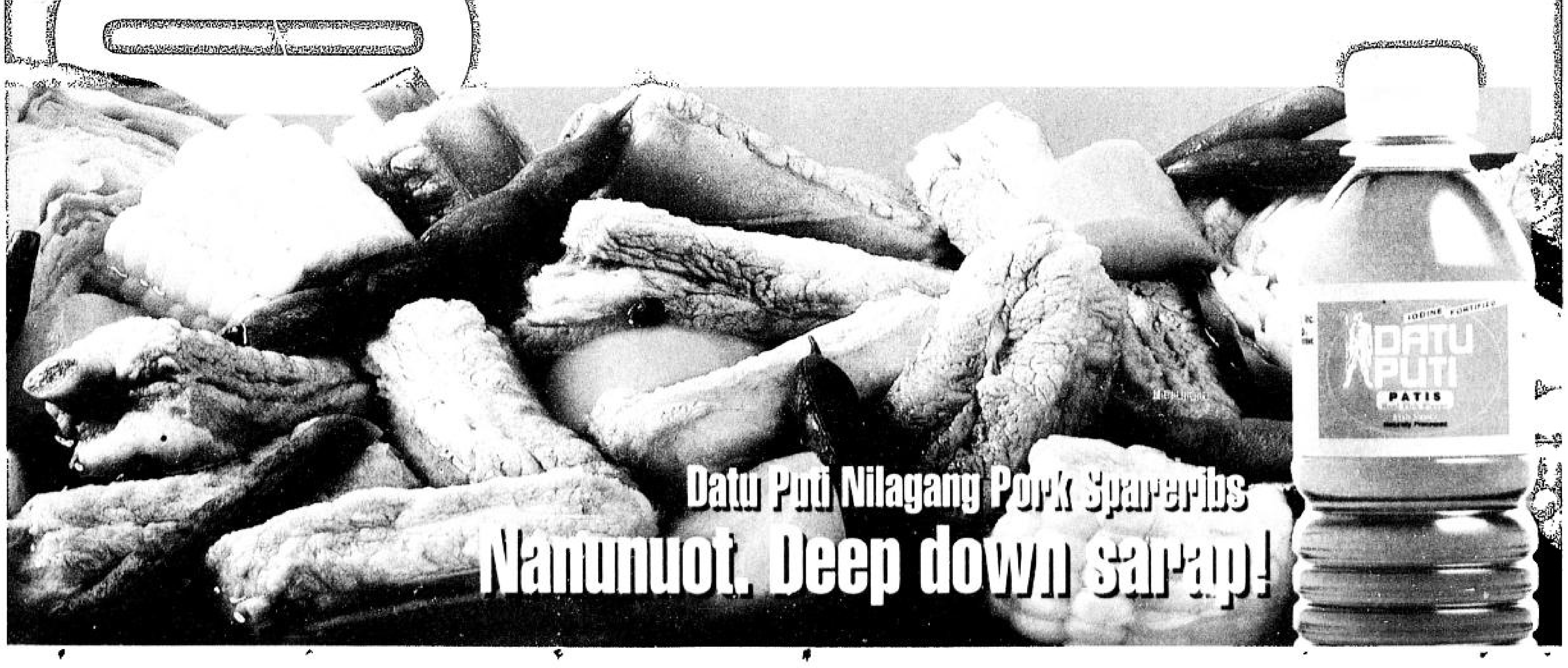
"But I read up whatever newspaper clippings I could and plastered the walls of my home and our camp with Laden's photographs. I used to look at these pictures before I slept each night."

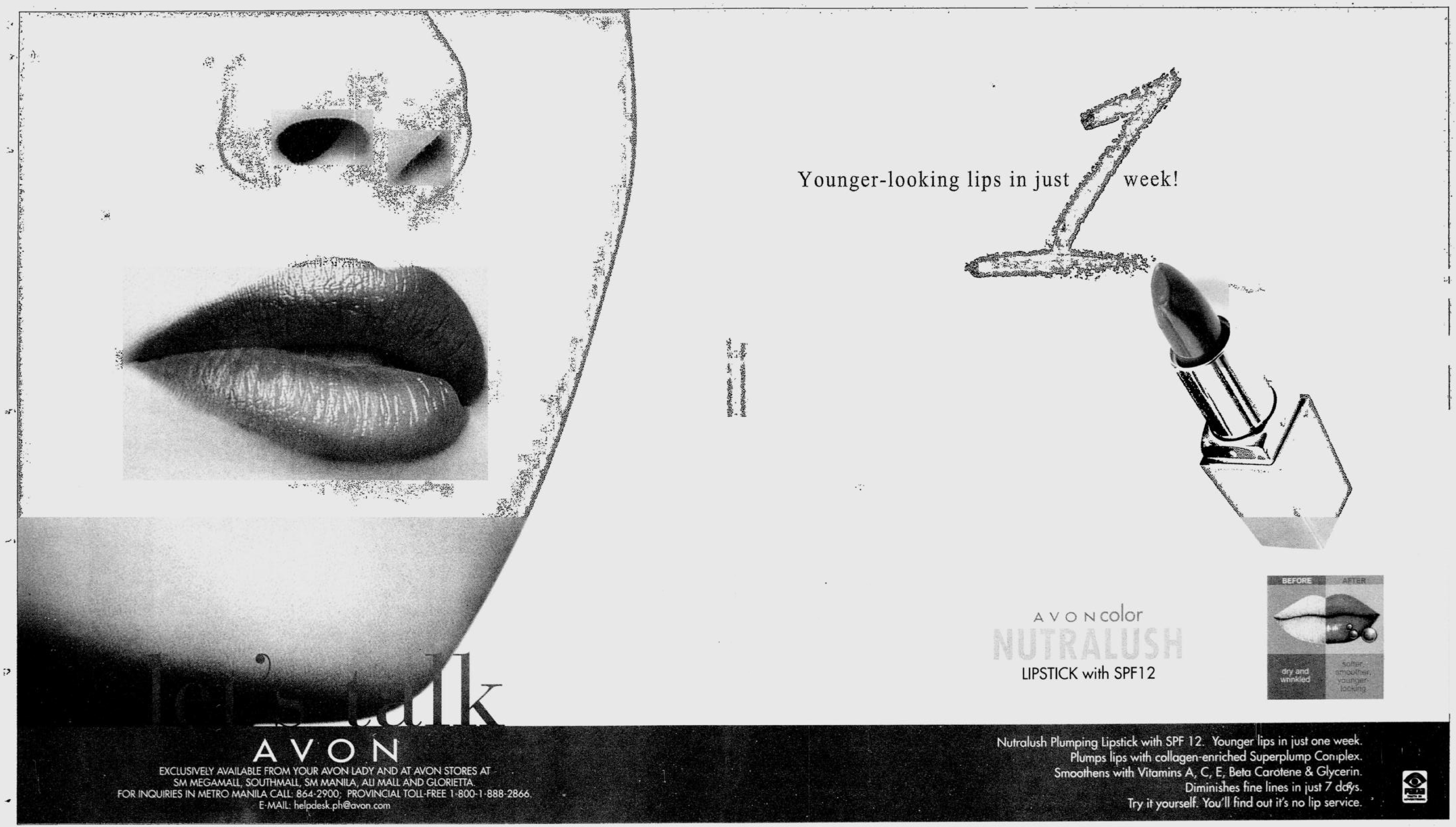
Jita Saikia, playing an Afghan woman whose family is killed by Taliban raiders, moved audience members to close their eyes and hang their heads in sadness.

"Her powerful acting gave us an idea about the Taliban, how they could kill a boy because his mother would not let him join the Taliban troops, or commit atrocities on a family for letting their daughters go to school," said Arati Bhuyan, a homemaker, after seeing the play.

Apart from powerful themes, traveling theaters in Assam are fa-

SEPT./D5

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ISIDRO AND FERNANDEZ. Personality counts a lot.

Peeping into Agot and Pops' clothes closets

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

IT is one of those days when you stare at your closet and moan that you have nothing to wear. What's the big deal, anyway, it's just clothes. But wait, indulging in fashion can actually be fun if you don't become a fashion victim!

Not just vanity

Pops Fernandez smiles and grins, "I'm *maarte!* It's not just vanity, it's just that I want to present myself well all the time. I owe it to the public to always look good. Especially now, I don't even know what the style is," she laughs, then stands up.

"Imagine, you can wear pants with the crotch up to here? It's very Western, very American. Filipinos are free now to dress up any way they want. But I still feel that show business is supposed to be glamorous. I feel that that's what people watch you for."

Agot Isidro shares Pops opinion: "I can never perform and come out in a show wearing an outfit I'm not comfortable in. If it doesn't feel right, I won't wear it. You have to have an eye for style. And I'd rather be underdressed than overdressed."

Coordinated

And if you were to raid their clothes closets, what would you find? Pops' dimples deepen as she reveals that she's a very casual person, but wants everything to be coordinated. Then she admits that her outfit depends on her mood.

"Sometimes, I plan my outfit for the next day and my clothes are already laid out. Then I put them on, and I'm not happy with them so I change. So before I leave the house, I change twice or thrice."

"If you look at my closet, it's all basically black—*kasi* you can't go wrong. And I love wearing pants."

Agot smiles as she recalls the contents of her closet: "My clothes are very basic, even the colors. *Wala ako masyadong damit na may* color. And I don't like prints so much, *naguguluhan ako! Gusto ko kasi malinis at magagamit ko ulit.*"

Are they also particular about the clothes their dates wear?

Shoes

Agot shares, "I always look at their shoes first! They should have character! *'Yung may lukot at hindi mukhang bago, pero hindi madumi.*"

Pops beams, "It's not really how he dresses up, I just want to make sure that he's clean and neat. I look at the guy's eyes first, to check if he's sincere or not."

Agot also checks out the guy's height, sense of humor and conversation skills.

Pops nods and agrees that personality counts. "*Siyempre*, you get attracted to a good-looking guy, but if he's bland—what will you talk about!"

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SMART Simply Amazing!

SATURDAY *Special*

GUITARISTS Ron Wood, left, and Keith Richards perform during the opening night of their US tour in Boston, Mass. AP

Rolling Stones kick off 40th anniversary tour

By Bob Salsberg

BOSTON—The Rolling Stones recentlylaunched a 25-city tour with "Street Fightin' Man" as their first song, as if making a statement that after 40 years they're still in fighting shape.

Newly knighted Mick Jagger, grizzled guitarist Keith Richards and the rest of the band have billed their "Licks" tour, as their most elaborate stage show ever, with eye-popping special effects.

Concertgoers

"There's nothing so exciting as starting an American tour and there is nothing so exciting . . . as starting here in Boston," the 59-year-old Jagger told the concertgoers packed into the Fleet Center.

It's the hottest ticket in rock; industry analysts expect it to be the year's top-grossing tour. Most tickets—some selling for up to $350—were snapped up for the 40-show tour shortly after they went on sale. The band will not only play arenas and stadiums, but cozy concert halls as well.

Tour director Michael Cohl said that like the "Voodoo Lounge" and "Bridges to Babylon" tours of the 1990s, the stadium shows will be heavy on Stones staples such as "Jumpin' Jack Flash," "Honky Tonk Woman," and "Brown Sugar."

Arena shows

By contrast, the arena shows—like the one in Boston—will include a large collection of less familiar songs culled from the band's 40-year history.

On opening night, the Stones followed their first number with "If You Can't Rock Me" and "It's Only Rock 'N' Roll," during which Jagger, dressed in tight black pants, shed his blue jacket to reveal a white T-shirt underneath.

During the fourth song, Jagger played guitar on "Don't Stop," one of four new numbers from the Stones' forthcoming album "Forty Licks." The collection of their greatest hits will be released in October.

Two hours before the Stones took the stage, crowds of mostly middle-aged fans—some wearing shirts with the Stones' famous lips and tongue emblem—waited for the doors to open.

Steve Mulcahey, 50, a police dispatcher from Warwick, Rhode Island, said the Stones were worth the wait.

Electricity

Why? "The music and the fact that they can still perform it live onstage," he said, and "the electricity in the air."

This was his 17th Stones concert and Mulcahey planned to attend three others on the current tour.

"I've got the tattoo on my butt. I'm all set," Mulcahey said of the Stones emblem.

While the number 40 might be a theme of the band's tour, the Stones would clearly like to stay clear of discussing another number: 60. That's the age Jagger and Richards will be by the end of next year. The third original member of the band, drummer Charlie Watts, is already 61. *AP*

JAGGER. Turning 60 by the end of 2003.

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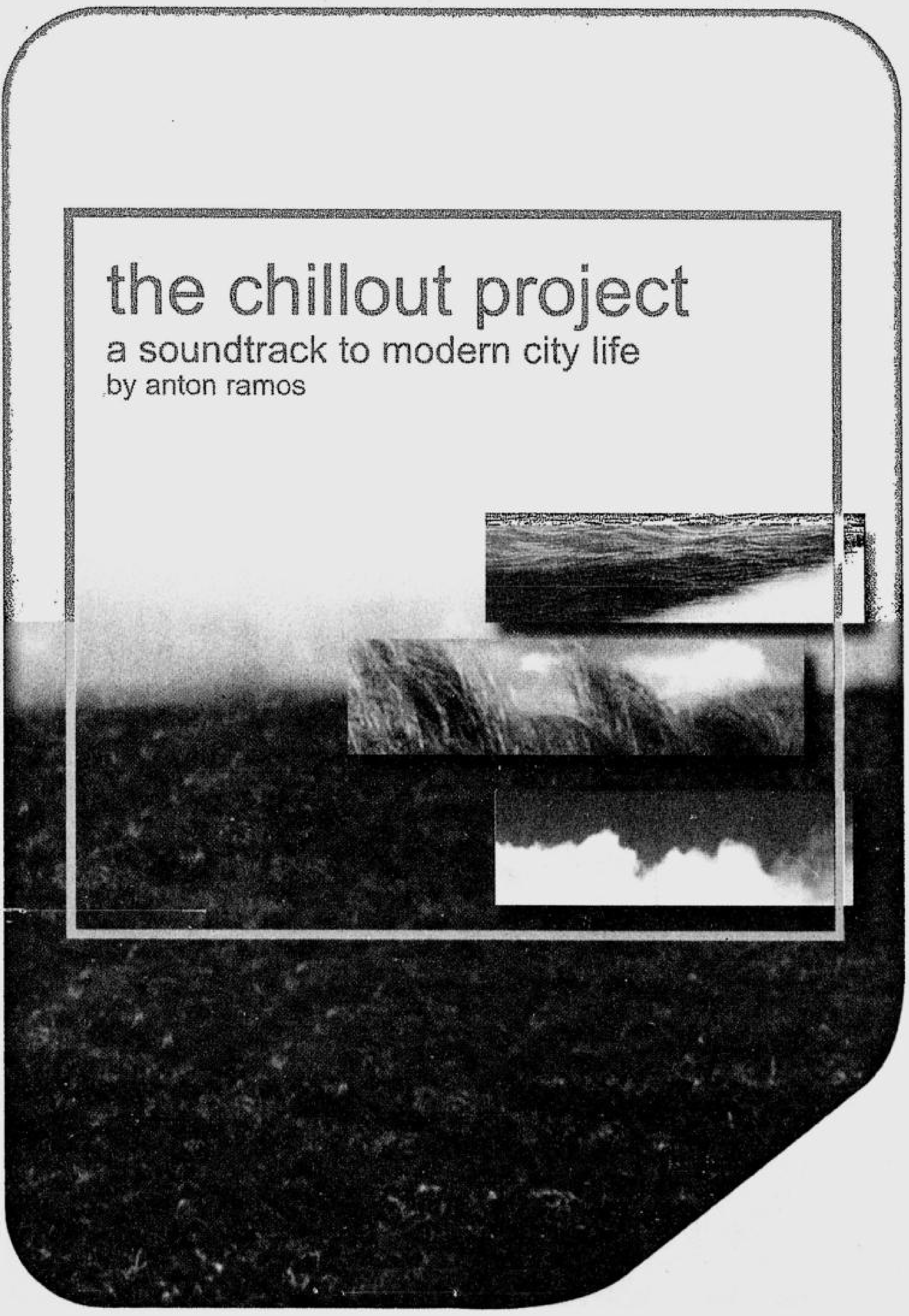

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Soundman-turned-director premieres new short film

By Rica Arevalo

DENNIS Empalmado, 30, is a veteran soundman in the advertising industry. Last Sept. 11, Empalmado premiered his directorial 30-minute film, "Piso Dalawang Piso" at the UP Film Center.

Ultimate goal

"Once you study filmmaking, your ultimate goal is to make your own film. I used my being a soundman as a stepping stone so that I could learn more and be known in the industry," shares Empalmado.

He hails from San Pablo, Laguna. During his trips, he would notice people going to the comfort rooms. He was amazed at the different prices for "nature's call" posted on the door. It intrigued him to see the toilet caretakers earning a living through human waste.

"Piso Dalawang Piso" is about a wounded activist (Yul Servo) who ends up in a toilet, where he meets two caretakers (Isko Salvador and Metring David), whose only reality in life is earning from toilet fees.

He shares, "When I was writing the script, 'Brod Pete' served as my reference, that's why I used him. I saw Yul at the Urian Awards Night on TV and liked him. With Metring David, I wanted an old actress, *yung nawala na sa mundo ng* show biz, *yung nalimutan na.*"

Empalmado established a historic mood when he used the song "Habang Buhay" by Anak Bayan. It was the first song heard by Pinoy rockers after martial law. Howlin' Dave, Roxlee, Tado and Tim Yap play cameo roles.

Favorite

"There is a lot of symbolism in the film. I hope people can relate to them. My favorite is the traffic jam at Edsa and the many stranded passengers. *Talagang kanya-kanya sila! Dyan ka, dito ako*—absolutely no order."

"Piso Dalawang Piso" is partially funded by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. "My parents and in-laws helped me make this film, *Lahat ng mga kaibigang walang ginagawa, inabala namin! Masaya sa* independent—*wala nga lang pera, pero masaya ang iyong kaluluwa.* After I saw the final edit, *bura lahat ng hirap, para kang binayaran ng malaking pera,"* exclaims Empalmado.

His final words, *"Totoong mahirap gumawa ng pelikula. Pero ang umayaw dito, siya ang talo."*

Dark satire

This new film is different. It is a dark satire. This is for the new audience.

The production staff: Eric Cajandab de la Cruz, cinematographer/line producer; Ava Yap, production manager; Dennis Empalmado and Vladimir Rivera, screenplay; Chuck Escasa, editor; Yeye Calderon, production designer, Raffy "Bulan" Luna, sound; Jerico Torres, original score.

EMPALMADO (center) sets up a shot with Isko Salvador (left) and Tado.

Filmmaking 101 on Cinemax's 'Project Greenlight' series

By Nestor U. Torre

AS the "Project Greenlight" series continues on the Cinemax channel, viewers are getting a good introduction to the nitty-gritty of filmmaking. So, it turns out, is first time scriptwriter-director Pete Jones, whose script, "Stolen Summer," won the top prize of $1 million in production money in Miramax's first nationwide contest for new writers.

Headaches

Jones could have spared himself a lot of headaches by not insisting that he direct his own script. But he loved his story so much that he also wanted to be the one to turn it into a finished film.

As Episodes 6 and 7 of the "Project Greenlight" series show, Jones encountered many problems trying to get the film in within budget. As his producers saw it, he wasted a lot of time insisting on certain special scenes, locations or pieces of equipment.

Since time is money in moviemaking, Jones' intransigence had a negative financial effect on the production. This increased the tension on the set, and had a unhealthy impact on the actors, who got rattled by the conflict between the creative and technical components of the project.

Image

For instance, Jones insisted on shooting a scene under an expanse of elevated train tracks. The image produced was indeed striking, but the trains' sound made it difficult to hear the actors.

Also, since the scene involved child actors who could work only for a limited number of hours each day, the additional time needed to solve the sound problem made it difficult to complete the number of shots scheduled for that day.

The producers tried to point this out to Jones, but it didn't really sink in.

HELEN Hunt amd Aidan Quinn play major roles in "Stolen Summer."

Camera rig

On the second day of shooting, the situation unraveled even more. Jones insisted on shooting a scene inside a car, but the special camera rig required for such sequence took too much time to set up.

Also, the camera experienced a short circuit, and the caterer delivered lunch late due to a vehicular foul-up. As a result, the crew was entitled to collect a "penalty" compensation that further ate into the production's budget.

All the while, Jones didn't seem to be aware of the negative repercussions of his intrasigence, so the executive producer finally put his foot down and told the tyro director off.

Budgetary considerations

He also instructed his assistants to stand up to the director more often, because making a movie was not just a creative enterprise, but also had budgetary considerations to keep in mind.

It is the balancing act of fulfilling these two joint objectives that separates the men from the boys, or the professionals from the neophytes, in film work.

It was pointed out that the problems and conflicts are not as huge in films that are budgeted below $1 million. Directors are given more latitude for creativity because the financial stakes are lower, and the production components are fewer.

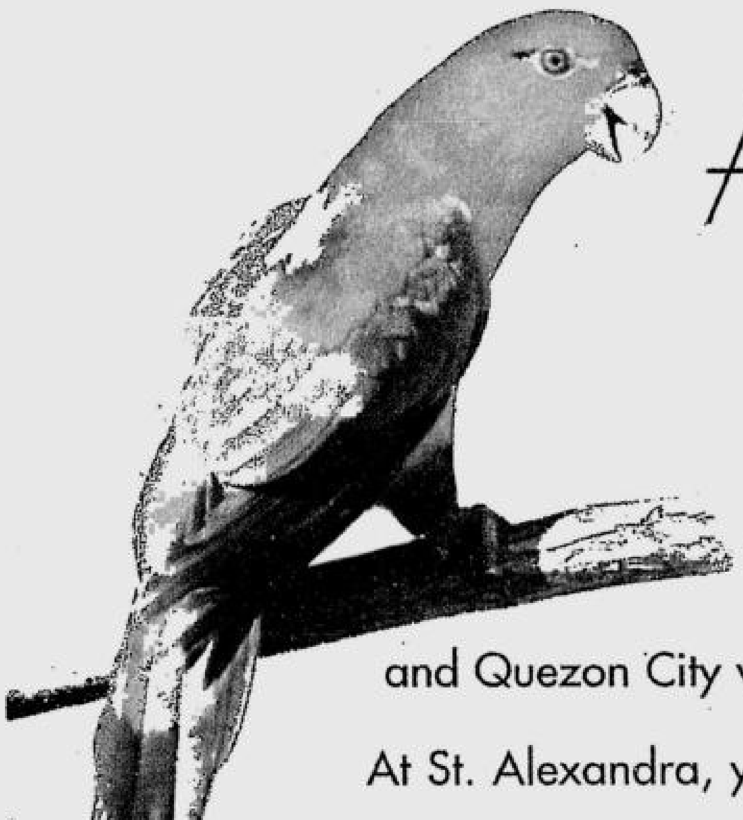
In the case of "Stolen Summer," which ended up starring veteran actors like Helen Hunt and Aidan Quinn, however, the stakes were relatively high, so its first-time director had to be more aware of the financial repercussions of his decisions.

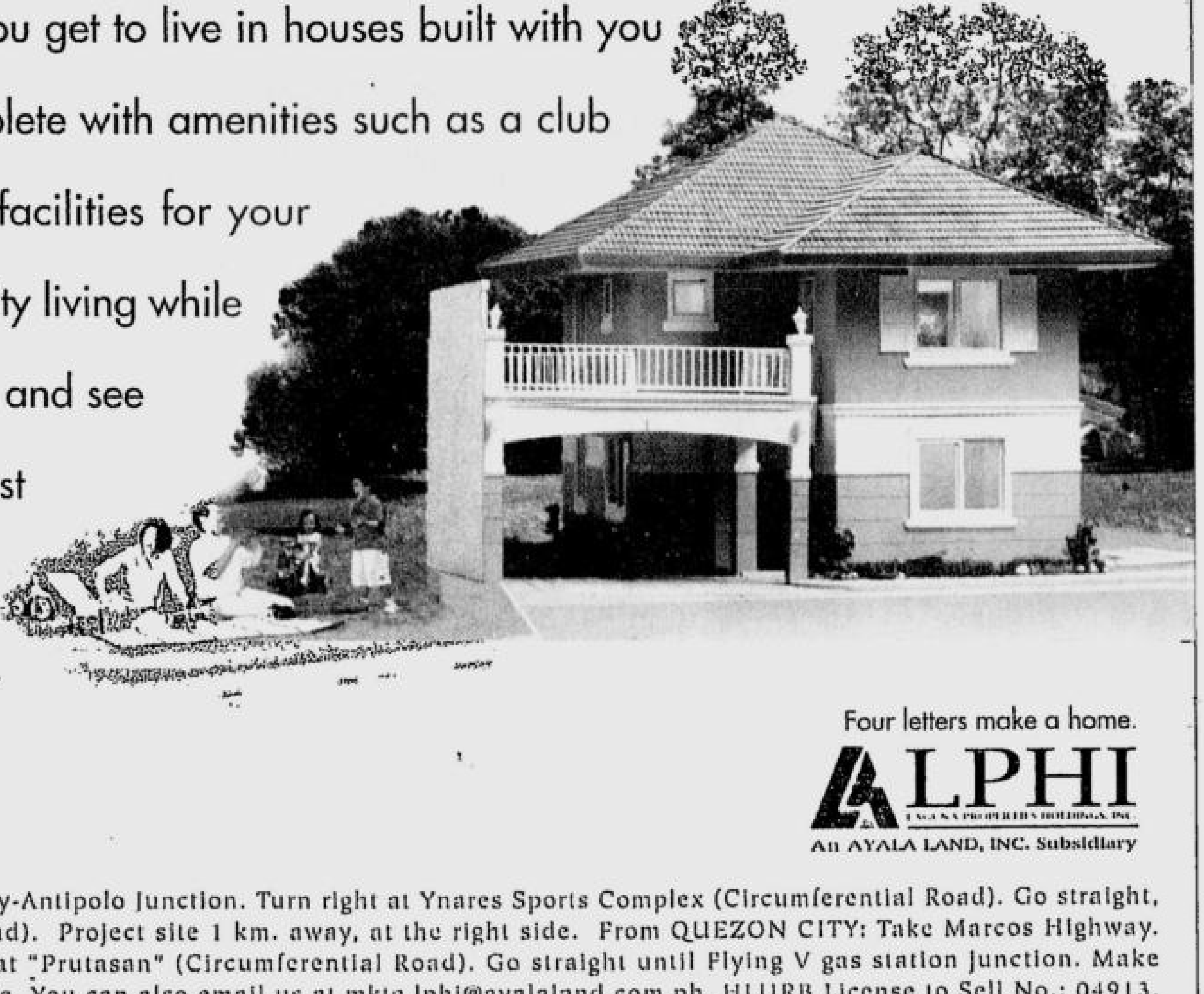
Basic difference

To the producers, some of Jones' "must-haves" were not really all that essential; of course, Jones disagreed. But one thing they had to agree on was that, if they weren't able to resolve their basic differences, the movie could run over-budget, and thus be forced to stop shooting.

Nobody wanted this to happen, so the producers and director had to resolve their differences as soon as possible. Would they? Well, since "Stolen Summer" *was* eventually shown at the Sundance filmfest, yes.

But how they came to terms with their problem, as detailed in subsequent episodes of "Project Greenlight," would be most instructive to other prospective filmmakers viewing this Cinemax series.





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Parliament Syndicate has what it takes

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

JUDGING from the huge turnout at their gigs, Parliament Syndicate always makes sure that they give their audience a "horn-y" night. Nope, their show is not obscene, Parliament Syndicate simply plays the trombone and saxophone to the hilt.

Confusing

Belting out tunes like "Light the Fire," "It's Too Late Now" and "Get Down On It," it's clear that the band has what it takes. But listening to both funk and groove music can be confusing. How do they distinguish one from the other?

Mar Dizon (drums) explains, "*Sa* groove, *kino*-convey *mo yung* beat *na may pakiramdam. Para maging* funkly *yung* groove, *kailangan maging mabantot, malaswa. Mahirap i*-describe *yung funkyu. Basta parang mararamdaman mo na lang na mabantot yung tinutugtog nyo.*"

So, does it follow that they all like groove and funky music? Judith Alegarbes (lead vocals) clarifies, "*Ako hindi.* Actually *sila*," pointing to the rest of her bandmates, "*ang talagang nakakaintindi.*"

Though they have performed individually abroad, they all admit that they love performing here as a group.

Kim Lesaca (bass) shares, "*Maganda dito mag*-perform as a group. *Siguro*, once in a while *puwedeng may* show abroad. *Yung pasundot-sundot lang, para maiba yung* environment."

Tour

Mar adds, "*Kung* tour, anytime! *Pero kung tutugtog na biyahe na parang* contract worker *ka, huwag na lang.*"

Teamwork is strong in this group. After each song, they look at each other briefly to give out signals. Then they do two ballads, "Holding Back the Years" and "Every Now and Then" and their original, "Waiting."

Ronald Tomas (sax/lead vocals) clarifies, "We try to work as one, *para maging isa lang yung* goal *namin. Kailangan kasi mag*-evolve *kami sa* one sound. *Kailangan mag*-jell *sa isang* sound, *dahil kung hindi, baka magkahiwa-hiwalay.*"

Kim interjects, "*Na*-discover *na lang namin kung ano yung gusto namin sa* music."

Musical focus

They can do '80s songs, New Wave, '70s funk, dance hip-hop, house music, and acid jazz. They constantly change their musical focus.

Kim observes, "*Isang* factor *sa* change, *yung mga tinutugtugan namin. Nag*-start *kami sa mga* lounges, so *yung* existing repertoire *namin, doon lang umiikot. Tapos, noong pumuwesto kami sa* Zu, *nag-iba ulit. Nag*-reserach *kami ng mga* dance music. But not necessarily *pareho ng ibang banda, kasi ayaw namin ng may katunog.*"

Like other bands, they have made the rounds of the club circuit and have performed back-to-back with other groups. They usually find themselves playing with First Circle and Passage.

And they admit that they are prone to pangs of doubt and fear. One of their fears is the realization that their music has ceased to be fun and has become work. So, to conquer this, they experiment with their sound to avoid becoming "generic."

Phantom Planet's second album is easy to like

By Noelani Torre

SOMETIMES we need just a little lighthearted fun, and this is exactly what we get in Phantom Planet's second album, "The Guest" (Sony/Epic). This sundrenched, undeniably tuneful CD was released earlier this year, and some of its songs have been getting a lot of airplay recently.

Unfamiliar

Despite that, many people still remain unfamiliar with this twentysomething California quintet and their music. This isn't altogether surprising, because Phantom Planet is a relatively young band and most of its publicity has been aimed at the Western market.

Still, it won't be long now, we think, before this group explodes into our scene.

Phantom Planet was formed in 1994 when its five members—who are also best buds—were still in high school. They released their debut album, "Phantom Planet Is Missing" in 1998 and though it never became a big hit, the record managed to attract a core of die-hard fans who patiently waited four years for the band's sophomore release.

Frontman

Some folks dismissed the band as a celebrity side project at first (a la Kevin Bacon, Keanu Reeves, Russell Crowe, Bruce Willis, and their respective atrocious-sounding bands), because frontman Alexander Greenwald and drummer Jason Schwartzman also pursue acting and modeling careers.

(Schwartzman, son of actress Talia Shire and nephew of Francis Ford Coppola, is best known for playing Max Fischer in Wes Anderson's film, "Rushmore," and was featured in "Slackers," while Greenwald starred in the dark comedy "Donnie Darko" and did several commercials for Gap and Twix.)

After hearing them play, however, everybody—and we do mean everybody—reversed his opinion.

It's easy to see, or hear, why. There just isn't anything really bad one can say about Phantom Planet's music. It's cheerful, sunny without being corny, and downright catchy. Besides that, these guys sound like they truly enjoy making music. They're having fun, they seem to tell us, and so should we.

Aside from Greenwald and Schwartzman, the band's other members are Jacques Brautbar (guitar, vocals), Darren Robinson (guitars), and Sam Farrar (bass, vocals). Brautbar is working on his music degree at the University of Southern California's prestigious music program and Farrar is another Hollywood scion, his father being John Farrar who gave us "Grease" favorites like "You're the One That I Want" and "Hopelessly Devoted To You."

Production team

It's more than likely that all these connections smoothened some paths for the band, but we can't really begrudge them that. At least, they made good use of them. Another plus is their production team, headed by the outstanding Mitchell Froom and Tchad Blake.

One musician/critic wrote that having them as producers "is roughly the equivalent of having musical life insurance." Froom has produced such musicians as Tom Waits, Crowded House, Cibo Matto, Elvis Costello, Paul McCartney, Suzanne Vega, and Los Lobos; and Blake produced Pearl Jam, Peter Gabriel, The BoDeans, and The Bangles. The pair's studio wizardry is evident in "The Guest's" clean, crisp sound and its over-all general radio-friendliness. *(To be concluded)*

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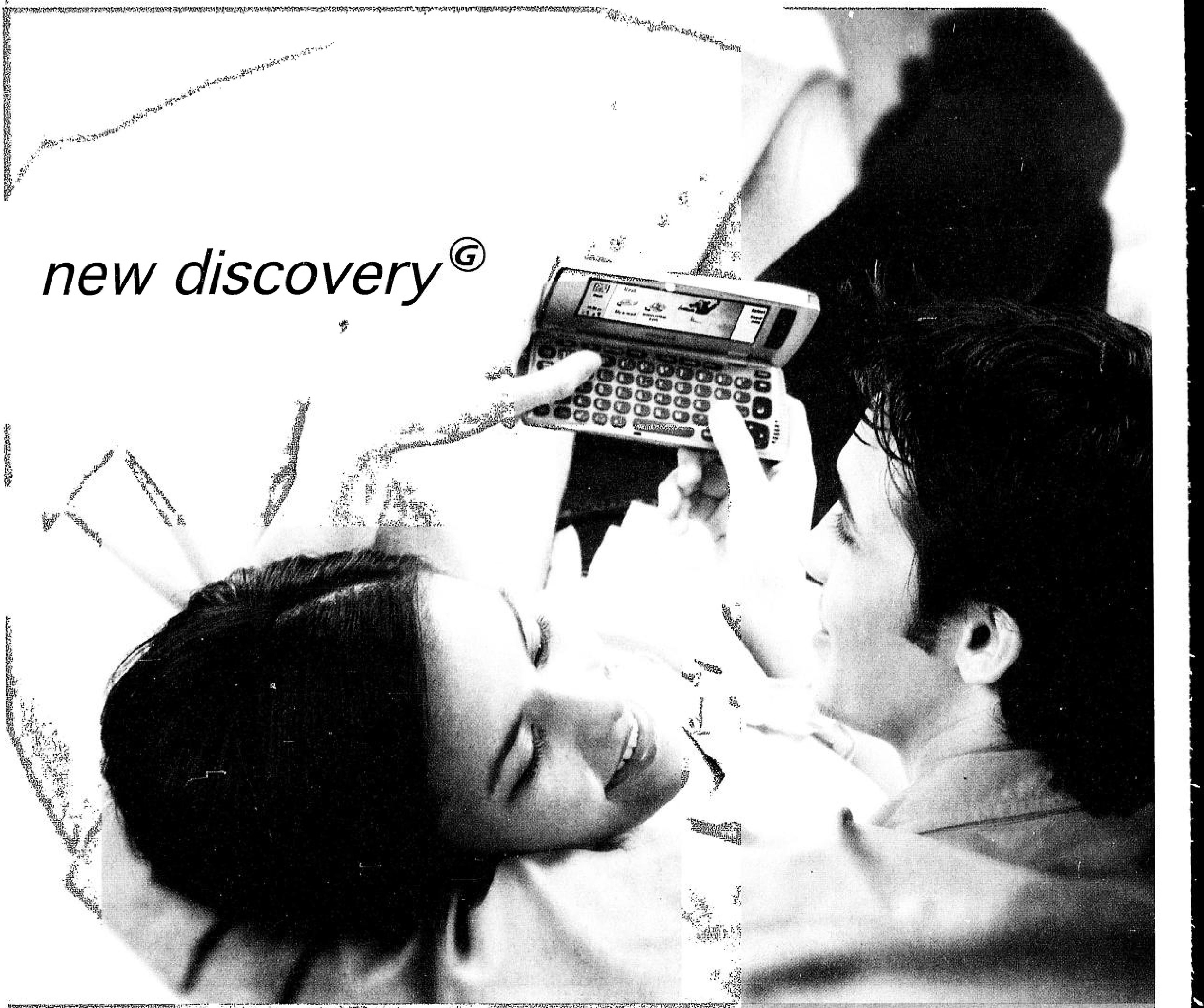

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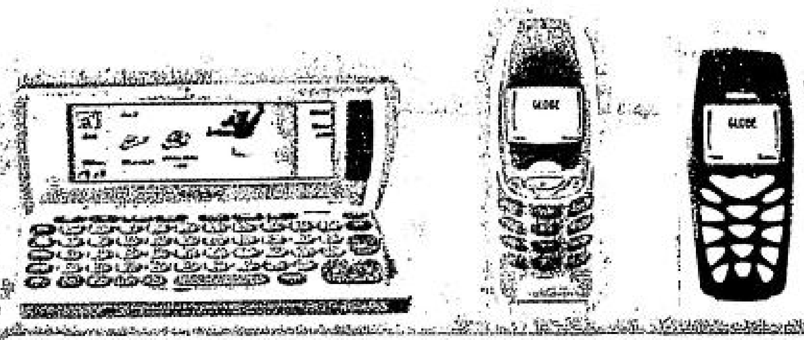

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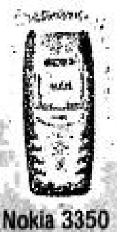
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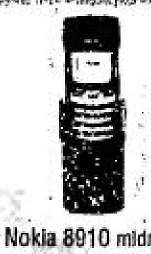
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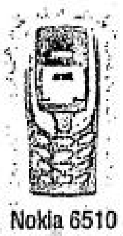
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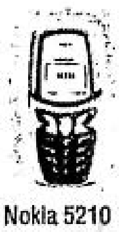
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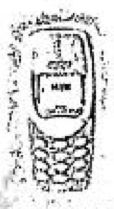
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Those Nora Aunor eyes

By Nestor U. Torre

We join other loyal and "diehard believers" in Nora Aunor in looking forward to her new soap, "Bituin," which will premiere on Channel 2 on Sept. 23. Against all odds, we continue to believe in Nora's talent, and hope that it will be properly showcased in her latest TV outing.

Masterstroke

We also find it great that Nora shares stellar billing in the soap with Carol Banawa. Like Nora, Carol is small, *kayumanggi*-complexioned, a good actress, and a fine singer. Their combination is a masterstroke of casting that could make the show unbeatable.

Another reason why we like the Nora-Carol combination is its beautifully Filipino projection. So many of our stars are *tisoy* and *tisay* that they've become boring and cloying.

Aunor and Banawa provide a fine contrast and alternative to the colonial mentality that's again taken over our big and small screens, no thanks to the many *balikbayan mestizos* who have come from many western countries to try their luck in Philippine show business.

'Fear factor'

So, the new soap's prospects looks bright. The "fear factor," of course, is that Nora may eventually compromise her own comeback, as she sometimes has in the past.

We hope, however, that she will be more professional and disciplined this nth time around, because she may not get many more chances to recover lost ground after this.

Let's face it, she isn't getting any younger, and local show biz fans are notorious for their preference for young talents.

Still, Nora has something that nobody else has been able to match or imitate, which is why she's endured for so long, despite the roller-coaster run of her career (since the 1960s!).

She's *Pinay na Pinay*, and that gives her portrayals of "ordinary" people great authenticity. Her "realistic" looks have also done a lot to combat the escapism that is one of the banes of local TV and film.

AUNOR. Will she be kinder to herself—and us— this latest time around?

Aunor and Banawa provide a fine contrast and alternative to the colonial mentality that's again taken over our big and small screens

Hard life

Also very helpful is the fact that she had a hard life before she topped the "Tawag ng Tanghalan" national singing contest. This has given her a deep psychological well from which to draw both strong and subtle emotions that have made her performances textured and moving.

Then, on the physical level, there are those expressive Nora Aunor eyes, windows to her complex and "wounded" soul.

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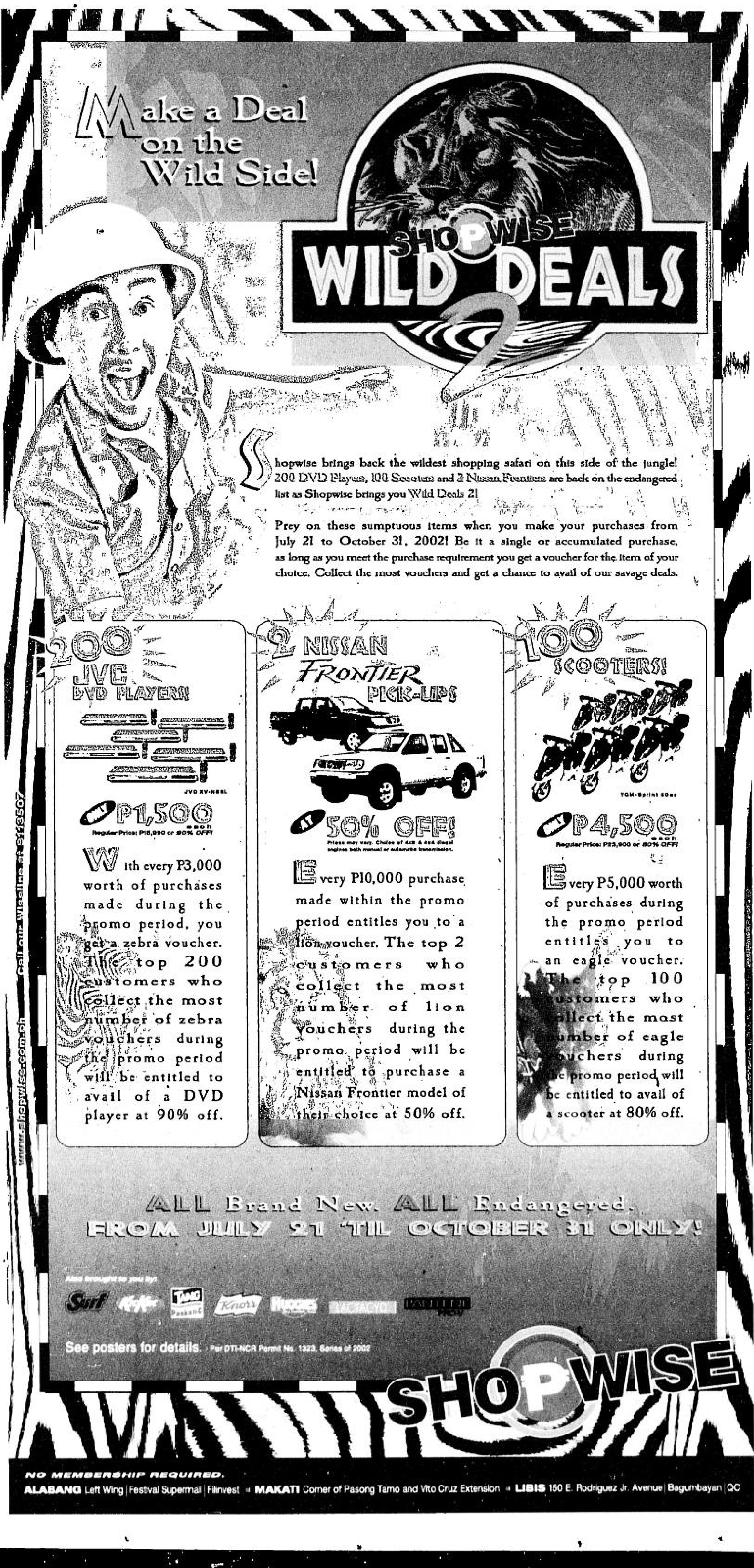

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200 JVC DVD PLAYERS!
JVD XV-N88L
ONLY P1,500 each
Regular Price: P18,990 or 80% OFF!
With every P3,000 worth of purchases made during the promo period, you get a zebra voucher. The top 200 customers who collect the most number of zebra vouchers during the promo period will be entitled to avail of a DVD player at 90% off.

2 NISSAN FRONTIER PICK-UPS
AT 50% OFF!
Prices may vary. Choice of 4x2 & 4x4 diesel engines both manual or automatic transmission.
Every P10,000 purchase made within the promo period entitles you to a lion voucher. The top 2 customers who collect the most number of lion vouchers during the promo period will be entitled to purchase a Nissan Frontier model of their choice at 50% off.

100 SCOOTERS!
YGM-Sprint 50cc
ONLY P4,500 each
Regular Price: P23,900 or 80% OFF!
Every P5,000 worth of purchases during the promo period entitles you to an eagle voucher. The top 100 customers who collect the most number of eagle vouchers during the promo period will be entitled to avail of a scooter at 80% off.

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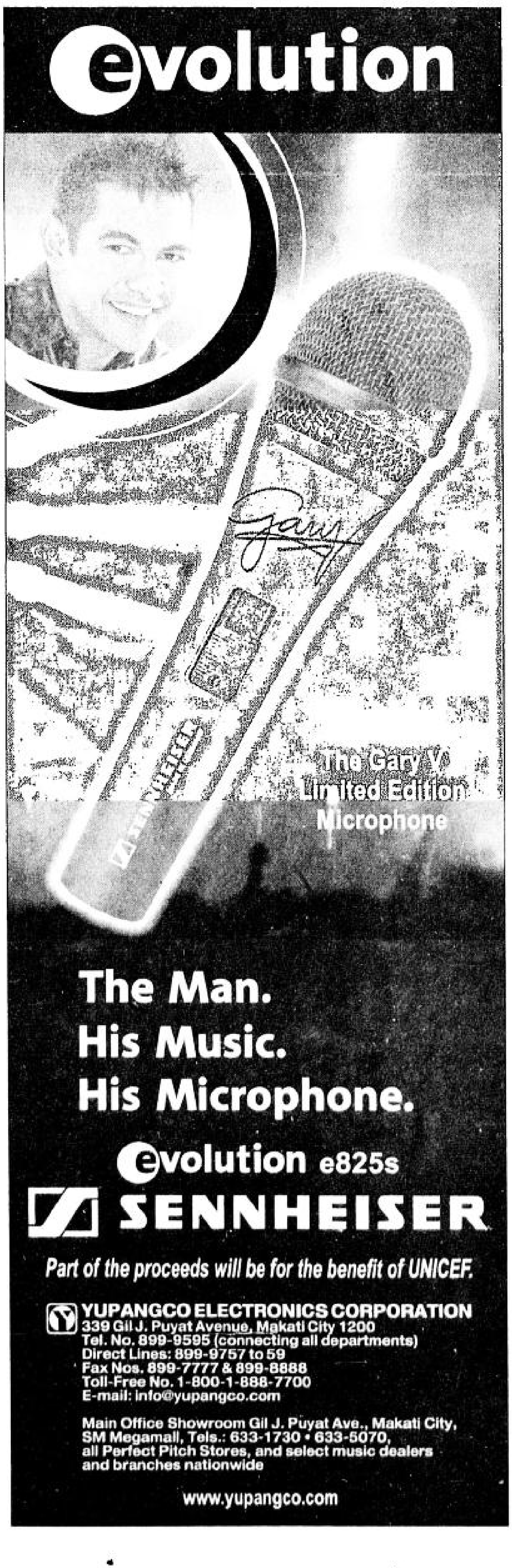

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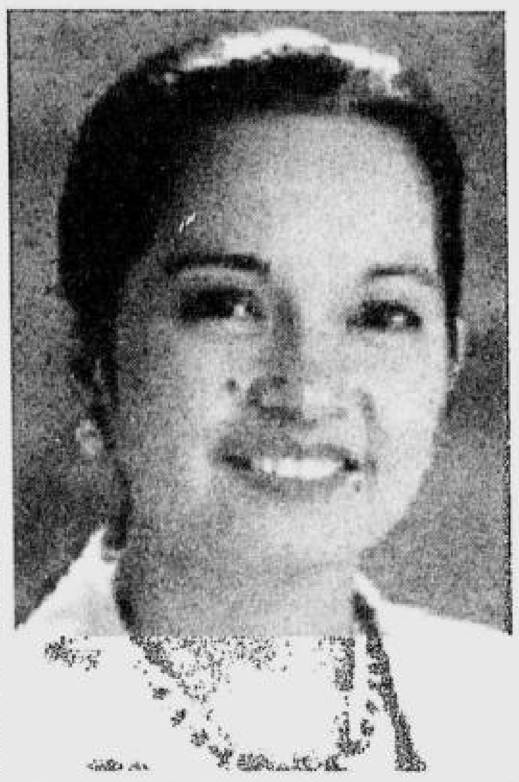
PCFC: Reaching Out to 2.6-M Marginalized Families in 7,000 Philippine Islands

> **"Whether in Metro Manila or in the countryside, we will make microfinance a cornerstone in our fight against poverty."**
>
> -- **Pres. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
> State of the Nation Address
> July 23, 2001



Could $100 go a long way?

For many marginalized Filipino women, a definite **YES.**

This was proven true a thousand times by the beneficiaries of the microfinance program in the Philippines. And this is also the basic reason President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has declared "microfinance" as one of the pillars in the poverty-alleviation programs of the country under the Philippine Medium Term Development Plan. In fact, for the SONA (State-of-the-Nation Address) year July 2001 to June 2002, the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC), through its Microfinance Institution Partners (MIPs), reached out 312,000 new enrollees.

As of July 31, 2002, PCFC, the government arm on microfinance under the National Anti-Poverty Commission, is currently reaching out, through its MIPs, to 659,140 microfinance enrollees, about 97% women, with microcredit loans of about P1.7 billion outstanding balance.

Total releases from 1996 to the present amounting to P3.693 billion reflect an average loan of a little over P5,600 or a few cents over $100. For the Filipino microfinance beneficiaries, the loan means a microenterprise or small livelihood project such as tending a small variety store, vending food items, weaving rags, making Christmas decors from garment factory "wastes" or *retaso,* or maintaining a market stall and so many more.

The profit in these livelihood projects enabled the borrowers or microentrepreneurs to augment the income of their spouses so they could send their children to school, improve their dwelling places and acquire simple amenities in life. A few of them improved their livelihood projects by acquiring additional equipment like sewing machines, ovens, air-compressors for vulcanizing and even transport vehicles. To some, the little profit became additional capital for branching out to other non-labor intensive livelihood projects like backyard animal raising.

PCFC President Iluminada L.E. Cabigas attributes this success of microfinance to the Corporation's 201 MIPs that now operate in all the provinces of the country. These MIPs are private rural banks, thrift banks, cooperative banks, cooperatives and non-government organizations (NGOs). The list at the opposite page shows the extent and depth of reach of MIPs serving all the provinces in the country.

PCFC provides funds to these partners on a wholesale basis. In turn, the partners give out loans to the marginalized sector using proven microfinance technologies like the Grameen Bank (Bangladesh) Approach, the ASA (Association for Social Advancement – Bangladesh) Method and the Micro-entrepreneurs Access to Banking Services (MABS) of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP).

PCFC extends both short-term and long-term credit facilities to its MIPs under its Investment Loan Programs. Likewise it provides the partners with "institutional" loans, which are intended for their capacity building as in procurement of equipment, manpower cost and expenses for training.

From the funds coming from the Asian Development Bank-International Fund for Agricultural Development (ADB-IFAD), PCFC wholesale funds under the Rural Micro-enterprise Finance Project (RMFP) that utilizes the Grameen Bank Approach for grassroots lending particularly to marginalized women.

The UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) fund is used to implement the MSP (Microfinance Support Program). This program requires the PCFC partners to implement the MicroStart Program that utilizes the methodology introduced by ASA for lending individually to members of groups/centers.

Using these microfinance technologies, many of these institutional partners post a collection rate as high as 99%. In fact, the collection rate of PCFC among its partners is a high of 98.25% as of July 31, 2002.

PCFC is confident that it can reach out to 2.6 million families in all the towns of the Philippines in the next five years. With the strong commitment of the 201 institutional partners of PCFC, its microfinance programs will be able to build a strong, viable and sustainable microfinance industry in the country to provide not only credit and savings services to the marginalized sector but also training in microenterprise development and management, community organization, livelihood skills, values formation; enhancement of self-awareness and participation in socio-civic programs; as well as micro insurance, mutual guarantee fund, emergency center funds, etc.

As it celebrates today its 7th Anniversary, PCFC aptly adopts the theme "Strong at Seven: Looking Ahead to Serve 2.6 Million Marginalized Families in 7,000 Philippine Islands."

PCFC Board of Directors

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(Land Bank of the Philippines)

Vice Chairperson:
ILUMINADA L.E. CABIGAS
(People's Credit & Finance Corporation)

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PCFC President Iluminada L.E. Cabigas, center, examines the products of microfinance borrowers of the NGO Uplift that were displayed recently in a bazaar at the Rockwell Center in Makati City

Tatag ng Samahan
Sagisag ng Kaunlaran

GAWAD PITAK
GAWAD SA PINAKATANGING KOOPERATIBA

Ang mga Nagwagi sa GAWAD PITAK 2002

	KATEGORYANG AGRI-BASED
Unang Gantimpala	**Tayabas Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative** Tayabas, Quezon
Pangalawang Gantimpala	**Diffun Credit & Development Cooperative** Diffun, Quirino
Pangatlong Gantimpala	**Lagawe Multi-Purpose Cooperative** Lagawe, Ifugao
Pang-apat na Gantimpala	**Sts. Peter & Paul Multi-Purpose Cooperative** Hinunangan, Southern Leyte
Panglimang Gantimpala	**Landan's People Cooperative** Polomolok, South Cotabato
	KATEGORYANG NON-AGRI-BASED
Unang Gantimpala	**Barangka Credit Cooperative** Barangka, Marikina City
Pangalawang Gantimpala	**Nueva Vizcaya Alay Kapwa Multi-Purpose Cooperative** Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Pangatlong Gantimpala	**Phil. Army Financial Center Producers Integrated Co-op** Taguig, Metro Manila
Pang-apat na Gantimpala	**Five Star Savings & Credit Development Cooperative** Gamu, Isabela
Panglimang Gantimpala	**Gubat St. Anthony Credit Cooperative** Gubat, Sorsogon
	KATEGORYANG KO-OP RURAL BANK
Unang Gantimpala	**Cooperative Bank of Bohol** Tagbilaran, Bohol
Pangalawang Gantimpala	**First Isabela Cooperative Bank** Cauayan, Isabela

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PEOPLE'S CREDIT AND FINANCE CORPORATION
on its 7th anniversary.

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PEOPLE'S CREDIT & FINANCE CORPORATION

List of Microfinance Institution Partners (MIPs)

CAR

- 1 Abra
  - Rangtay sa Pagrang-ay
    - Tolentino Opiniano - Chairman
- 2 Apayao
  - Rural Bank of Luna (Apayao), Inc.
    - Osias Papa - Manager
- 3 Benguet
  - Cooperative Bank of Benguet
    - Jaime Paul Panganiban - Chairman
    - Gerry Lab-Oyan - Gen. Manager
  - Rangtay sa Pagrang-ay
- 4 Kalinga
  - Mallig Plains Rural Bank
    - Leocadio Ignacio - Chairman
  - St. Joseph Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Arsenio Lua - Chairman
- 5 Ifugao
  - Lagawe Highlands Rural Bank
    - Wigberto Tañada - Chairman
  - Philippine Rural Banking (PR Bank)
    - Roberto Alingog - President
- 6 Mt. Province
  - Sinpangabong Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Zaldy Baybay - Chairman
  - Cooperative Bank of Benguet

REGION 1

- 7 Ilocos Norte
  - Cooperative Rural Bank of Ilocos Norte
    - Perseverando Rebucal - Chairman
    - Alberto Gudoy - Acting Manager
  - Home Town Corporation
    - Dennis Eclarin - Chairman/President
  - Rural Bank of Pasuquin (Ilocandia Community Bank
    - Keia Santiago - President/Manager
- 8 Ilocos Sur
  - Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives
    - Abelardo Z. Dugat - Chairman
    - Divina Quemi - Manager
  - Ilocos Sur Cooperative Bank
    - Efraim Dayap, Sr. - Chairman
    - Norma Cipriano - Manager
  - Rangtay sa Pagrang-ay
  - Galimuyod Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Jaime Gaboy - General Manager
- 9 La Union
  - Rangtay sa Pagrang-ay
  - Gulf Bank
    - Myrna Lopez - President & CEO
  - ABS - CBN Bayan Microfinance, Inc.
    - Ms. Sherry Lou Salazar - Operations Manager
- 10 Pangasinan
  - Gulf Bank
  - Sta. Barbara Rural Bank
    - Dave Calaguio - EVP
  - Rangtay sa Pagrang-ay
  - Rural Bank of Dasol (Pangasinan)
    - Lyndon Cantor - Pres./Manager
  - Producers Rural Banking Corporation
    - Andres Cornejo - President
  - Philippine Rural Banking (PR Bank)
    - Roberto Alingog - President
  - TSPI Development Corp.
    - Susan Trinidad
  - ABS - CBN Bayan Microfinance, Inc.

REGION 2

- 11 Batanes
  - Home Town Corporation
    - Dennis Eclarin - Chairman/Pre
- 12 Cagayan
  - Cooperative Bank of Cagayan
    - Rolando Calabazaron - Chairm
    - Lina Avelino - Gen. Manager
  - Providence Rural Bank
    - Remedios Cusi - Vice President
    - Olga Pasion - Manager
  - Mallig Plains Rural Bank
    - Leocadio Ignacio - Chairman
  - Five Star Credit Cooperative
    - Col. Artemio Jose - President
  - Claveria Agri - Based Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Hilario Somera - Chairman
    - Petra Martinez - Gen. Manager
  - Philippine Rural Banking (PR Bank)
    - Roberto Alingog - President
- 13 Isabela
  - Mallig Plains Rural Bank
  - First Isabela Cooperative Bank
    - Herminio Ocampo - Chairman
    - Soledad Cabantac - Gen. Manager
  - Five Star Credit Cooperative
    - Artemio Jose - President
  - Home Town Corporation
  - Rural Bank of Benito Soliven
    - Edgar Pascual - Gen. Manager
  - Philippine Rural Banking (PR Bank)
  - Cagayan Valley Confederation of Cooperatives
    - Loreto Ramiro - Chairman
    - Marie Vie Dalupang - Micro Head
- 14 Nueva Vizcaya
  - Mallig Plains Rural Bank
  - First Isabela Cooperative Bank
  - Five Star Credit Cooperative
  - Lagawe Highlands Rural Bank
    - Renato Tumaneng - Manager
  - Producers Rural Banking Corporation
  - Agri - Business Rural Bank
    - Rogelio Lastica - Sr. Manager
  - Cagayan Valley Confederation of Cooperatives
- 15 Quirino
  - Mallig Plains Rural Bank
  - First Isabela Cooperative Bank
  - Philippine Rural Banking (PR Bank)

REGION 3

- 16 Bataan
  - Bataan Cooperative Bank
    - Benjamin Ferol - Chairman
    - Wilfredo Banzon - Manager
  - Daan sa Pag-unlad
    - Rolando Dizon - Chairman
- 17 Bulacan
  - Cooperative Rural Bank of Bulacan
    - Jacinto Jose - Chairman
    - Nestor Custodio - Gen. Manager
  - Producers Rural Banking Corporation
  - Inner Wheel Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Anita Bernardo - Chairman
    - Perseveranda Geronimo - G. Mgr.
- 18 Nueva Ecija
  - Producers Rural Banking Corporation
  - Alalay sa Kaunlaran sa Gitnang Luzon
    - Gemilliano C. Calling - Chairm
  - Cooperative Bank of Nueva Ecija
    - Angelito Villaruz - Gen. Mana
  - Community Rural Bank
    - Teresita S. Gomez - Chairperso
  - Masagana Rural Bank
    - Iluminada Santos - Manager
  - Five Star Credit Cooperative
- 19 Pampanga
  - Cooperative Bank of Pampanga
    - Agapito Guanlao - Gen. Manager
  - Talete King Panyulung Kapampanga
    - Araceli Manalili - Exec. Director
  - ABS - CBN Bayan Microfinance, Inc.
    - Sherry Lou Salazar - Op. Manager
- 20 Tarlac
  - Cooperative Bank of Tarlac
    - Ricardo Ramos - Chairman
    - Willy Antimano - Manager
  - Producers Rural Banking Corporation
  - Rural Bank of Dasol (Pangasinan)
    - Lyndon Cantor - Pres./Manager
  - Five Star Credit Cooperative
  - Philippine Rural Banking (PR Bank)
  - TSPI Development Corp.
    - Susan Trinidad
- 21 Zambales
  - Producers Rural Banking Corporation
  - ABS - CBN Bayan Microfinance, Inc.
  - Cooperative Bank of Zambales
    - Rueben de Ocampo - Chairman

REGION 4

- 22 Aurora
  - Producers Rural Banking Corporation
  - Cooperative Bank of Nueva Ecija
  - Ma. Aurora Development Cooperative
    - Toribio M. Aligato - Gen. Manager
  - Pangkasama Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Lordan Roxas - General Mgr.
  - Alalay sa Kaunlaran sa Gitnang Luzon
- 23 Batangas
  - Countryside Cooperative Bank of Batangas
    - Belma Sales - General Manager
  - Lipa Public Savings & Loan Association
    - Carlos Cadiz - Manager
  - Rural Bank of Mataas na Kahoy
    - Nemesio Jude Villa III - VP / M
  - ABS - CBN Bayan Microfinance, Inc.
  - TSPI Development Corp.
- 24 Cavite
  - Capitol City Rural Bank
    - Nellie Ilas - President
  - BMS Bank
    - Marilou Genuino - President
  - TSPI Development Corp.
- 25 Laguna
  - CARD (Bank)
    - Dolores Torres - President
  - CARD (NGO)
    - Dolores Torres - President
  - ABS - CBN Bayan Microfinance, Inc.
  - BMS Bank
  - Ahon sa Hirap, Inc.
    - Mila Bunker - President
  - Kaliting Development Cooperative
    - Lourdes Abustan - Manager
  - TSPI Development Corp
- 26 Marinduque
  - CARD Bank
  - CARD (NGO)
- 27 Quezon
  - CARD Bank
  - CARD (NGO)
  - Rural Bank of Atimonan (Quezon)
    - Cesar Marasigan - Pres./ Manager
  - ABS - CBN Bayan Microfinance, Inc.
  - TSPI Development Corp.
  - Catanauan Credit & Development Cooperative
    - Jack Forneste - Manager
  - Kaliting Development Cooperative
- 28 Occ. Mindoro
  - Occidental Mindoro Cooperative Bank
    - Cristina Viguilla - Manager
  - CARD Bank
  - Sablayan Market Vendors Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Laura Vidal - Manager
- 29 Oriental Mindoro
  - CARD Bank
  - Saklaw Foundation
    - Jimson Ruga - Exec. Director
  - Calapan Vendors Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Guillerma Mercado - Gen. Manager
- 30 Palawan
  - Cooperative Bank of Palawan
    - Henry Gadiano - Gen. Manager
- 31 Rizal
  - Opportunity Microfinance Bank (OMB)
    - Josias dela Cruz - President
  - First Macro Bank
    - Sonia Ocampo - Chariman/Pres
  - BMS Bank
  - Ahon sa Hirap, Inc.
  - Rural Bank of Pililla
  - Taytay Development Cooperative
    - Melba Naz - Manager
  - Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives
    - Geronimo Zapata - Gen. Mana
  - TSPI Development Corp.
  - Foundation for Development Alternatives
    - Lita Asis Nero - Exec. Director
  - Visually Impaired B'hood for Excellent Services
  - Barangka Credit Cooperative
    - Roberto Mascarina - Gen. Manager
  - Center for Community Transformation, Inc. (CCT)
    - Maricar Santiago
- 32 Romblon
  - St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Antonio Fabito - Gen. Manager

REGION 5

- 33 Albay
  - Rural Bank of Malinao
    - Sobydee Lopera - Gen. Manager
  - Rural Bank of Sto. Domingo (Albay)
    - Nilda Granadillos - Pres./Mgr.
  - Rural Bank of Ibalon
    - Rene Imperial - President
- 34 Camarines Norte
  - Cooperative Bank of Camarines Norte
    - Jonah Pimentel - Gen. Mgr.
  - Rural Bank of Paracale
    - Cecile Ubaña - Gen. Mgr.
  - Basud Cooperative Development Organization
    - Angel Echano - General Manager
- 35 Camarines Sur
  - Producers Rural Banking Corporation
  - Cooperative Bank of Camarines Norte
  - Ragay Central School PTA Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Macario Calayag - Chairman
- 36 Catanduanes
  - Agricultural & Rural Development for Catanduanes
    - Noni Ayo - Managing Director
- 37 Masbate
  - CARD Bank
- 38 Sorsogon
  - People's Alternative Livelihood Credit Coop of Sorsogon
    - Sr. Adelia Oling - Prog. Coordinator

REGION 6

- 39 Aklan
  - Cooperative Rural Bank of Aklan
    - Pedro Cordova - Chairman
    - Clarita Macahilas - Gen. Mgr.
  - Uswag Development Foundation
  - Didi Quimpo - Exec. Director
- 40 Antique
  - Cooperative Rural Bank of Aklan
  - Taytay sa Kauswagan
    - Angel de Leon - Exec. Director
  - Ahon sa Hirap, Inc.
- 41 Capiz
  - Taytay sa Kauswagan
  - Rural Bank of Ivisan
    - Betty Beseña - Manager
  - Cooperative Rural Bank of Aklan
  - Rural Bank of Balasan
    - Eduardo Kapunan - President
- 42 Iloilo
  - Taytay sa Kauswagan
  - Rural Bank of San Enrique
    - Arturo Muyco - President
  - Rural Bank of Balasan
  - Association of Disabled Persons - Iloilo, Inc.
    - Nemesio Israel Flores, Jr. - Pres
  - Center for Community Transformation, 'Inc. (CCT)
    - Maricar Santiago
  - ABS - CBN Bayan Microfinance, Inc.
- 42 Guimaras
  - Taytay sa Kauswagan
  - Rural Bank of San Enrique
    - Arturo Muyco - President
- 44 Negros Occidental
  - Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation
    - Cecilia del Castillo - Exec. Direc
  - New Rural Bank of Victorias
    - Nimfa Plata VP- Operations
  - First State Rural Bank
    - Jose Tan - Chairman
  - Center for Community Transformation, Inc. (CCT)

REGION 7

- 45 Bohol
  - FCB Livelihood Foundation
    - Panfilo Asares - Exec. Director
  - Taytay sa Kauswagan
  - Feed the Children
    - Ignacio Abrau - Chairman
- 46 Negros Oriental
  - Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation
  - Rural Bank of Ayungon
    - Mario Dy - President
  - Lihok sa Kauswagan Foundation
    - Constancio Sia - President
  - Cooperative Bank of Negros Oriental
    - A. Cesar Tronto - Gen. Manager
- 47 Siquijor
  - Taytay sa Kauswagan
- 48 Cebu
  - Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation
  - Cebu People's Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Roberto Salera - Gen. Manager
  - Lamac Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Elena Limocon - Gen. Mgr.
  - Dumanjug Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Bienvenida Bermudez - Chair
    - Mercedita Abella - Manager
  - Carcar Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Cristalina Gadrinab - Manager
  - Community Rural Bank of Catmon (Cebu)
    - Armida Caguitla - President
  - Rural Bank of Oslob
    - Divina Tumulak - President
  - Asturias People's Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Antonio Adolfo - Gen. Mgr.
  - Bontoc Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Ernesto Aliling - Manager
  - First Consolidated Cooperative of Toledo City
    - Ricardo Lupino - Manager
  - Coastal Bank
    - Mark Joel Go - VP
  - Banco Maximo
    - Vidal Tarrosa - Manager
  - Bacayan Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Emeia Borgonia - Manager
  - Cooperative for American & Relief Everywhere
    - Teresa Bayombong - Director
  - First Agro - Industrial Rural Bank (FAIR BANK)
    - Gil J. Verallo - President

REGION 8

- 49 Biliran
  - Naval Community Credit Cooperative
    - Ricardo Mejia - Chairman
    - Jocelyn Poyales - manager
  - Rural Bank of Naval
    - Demetrio A. Jaguros - President
  - Visayas Cooperative Central Fund (VICTO - VCF)
    - Betta Salera - Manager
- 50 Eastern Samar
  - Five Star Credit Cooperative
  - Visayas Cooperative Central Fund (VICTO - VCF)
  - Rural Bank of Guiuan
    - Analiza Kwan - President
- 51 Northern Samar
  - Northern Samar Development Workers
    - Pio T. Tuan - Chairman
  - Visayas Cooperative Central Fund (VICTO - VCF)
- 52 Southern Leyte
  - Southern Leyte Cooperative Bank
    - Msgr. Manuel Alonzo - Chairman
  - Rural Bank of Hindang Savings & Credit Dev't Coops
  - San Roque Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Roque Catigan- Gen. Mgr.
- 53 Western Samar
  - Samar Microcredit Cooperative
    - Manuel Mabini - Chairman
  - Five Star Credit Cooperative
  - Visayas Cooperative Central Fund (VICTO - VCF)
- 54 Leyte
  - Ormoc Community Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Juanito Reyes - Chairman
    - Jaime Salague - Manager
  - Rural Bank of Dulag (Leyte), Inc.
    - Natividad P. Yu - President
  - Leyte Fourth District Women Credit Cooperative
    - Carolina Polangcus - Chairman
    - Zarina Yrastorza - Manager
  - Ciabu Primary Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Hersael Sabellano - Chairman
  - Visayas Cooperative Central Fund (VICTO - VCF)
  - Bawod Women's Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - El Mapula - Manager
  - Five Star Credit Cooperative
  - Fatima Credit Cooperative
    - Margarito Castello, Jr. - Chairman

REGION 9

- 55 Basilan
  - Kasanyangan Foundation
    - Ibarra Malonzo - President
    - Rodolfo Quinday - VP
- 56 Zamboanga del Sur
  - Cooperative Bank of Zamboanga del Sur
    - Venancio C. Ferrer, Jr. - Chairman
    - Diosdado Mabulay - Manager
  - Kasanyangan Foundation
  - Microentrepreneurs Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Mary Aldith Rabulan - Chairman
  - People's Microfinance Cooperative
    - Lenie Apolinario - Chairman 3
  - Muslimah Resource & Integrated Development Center
    - Zenaida Sabaani - Exec. Direct
- 57 Zamboanga del Norte
  - Rural Bank of Pres. M.A. Roxas
    - Rosa R. Lim - President
    - Rizalito Sy - Gen. Mgr.
  - Rural Bank of Rizal
    - Albert Concha - President

REGION 10

- 58 Bukidnon
  - Asian Hills Bank
    - Estellito Marabe - President
    - Benito Raypon - VP Operations
  - Hagdan sa Pag - uswag Foundation
    - Vicente Geducos - Exec. Dir.
- 59 Camiguin
  - Milamdec Foundation
    - Rafael Almonte - President
  - Camiguin Cooperative Bank
    - Benido Lozada - General Manager
- 60 Misamis Occidental
  - Paglaum Multi Purpose Cooperative
    - Joselito M. Dutallas - Chairman
    - Gadwin Handumon - Gen. Mgr.
  - Rural Bank of Ozamiz City
    - Elvira Tan - President
- 61 Misamis Oriental
  - Cooperative Bank of Misamis Oriental
    - Atty. Isidro O. Lico
    - Myrna Sescon - Gen. Mgr.
  - Hagdan sa Pag - uswag Foundation
  - Rural Bank of Talisayan
    - Ernesto Galenzoga - Pres./ GM
  - Milamdec Foundation
  - Enterprise Bank
    - Ignacito Alvizo - President
  - Asian Hills Bank

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  - Rural Green Bank of Caraga
    - Joseph Omar Andaya - President
    - Willy Antimano - Manager
  - Enterprise Bank
- 63 Agusan del Sur
  - Enterprise Bank
  - People's Rural Bank of Caraga
    - Carmelita Bilaoen - President
  - Rural Green Bank of Caraga
  - Rural Bank of Montevista
    - Guillermo P. Torres, Jr. - Pres.
    - Percival Cantiller - Gen. Mgr.
- 64 Surigao del Norte
  - Surigao Economic Development Foundation
    - Domingo Iligan - Exec. Dir.
  - Rural Bank of Placer
    - Jonhson Cuiting - President
  - Rural Bank of Buenavista
    - Lourdes Chan - Gen. Mgr.
  - Rural Bank of Dapa
    - Adelindes Calve - Gen. Mgr.
  - Rural Green Bank of Caraga
- 65 Surigao del Sur
  - Enterprise Bank
  - Rural Bank of Cantilan
    - Williams Hotchkiss - President
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  - PICOP & Community Credit Cooperative
    - Wilfredo Babano - Chairman

(To be continued)

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Makati City

'Harry Potter' to be allowed to work Internet magic

LOS ANGELES—Boy wizard Harry Potter will soon be working his magic on the Internet after Warner Brothers Pictures signed a groundbreaking deal that will for the first time allow its content to be downloaded on the Web, officials said Monday.

Deal

Warner Home Video and Internet movie service CinemaNow sealed a deal on Friday last week that will allow movies such as last year's megahit "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" to be downloaded from the Internet and watched whenever the viewer wants to do so.

Top blockbusters such as "Harry Potter" will be able to be downloaded for $3.99 per view, while other titles will cost $2.99 as Hollywood tentatively embraces the Internet despite fears of piracy and copyright violations.

Other Warner films that will be available online on CinemaNow include the 1950s classic Alfred Hitchcock film "Dial M for Murder," starring Grace Kelly, and Tim Burton's "Mars Attacks" starring Jack Nicholson, CinemaNow said.

"Making major studio content available to download in a secure and legal manner marks a tremendous leap forward for online distribution," said Bruce Eisen, CinemaNow's executive vice president. AFP

Those Nora Aunor eyes

From page F1

They are complemented by her singing voice, which is just as "wounded." It's no wonder that she captivated so many millions of people when she was still barely an adolescent, and this is what kept her at the top for decades.

Extensive experience

Another strength is her extensive experience in front of the camera, especially her good fortune at being directed and molded by the best directors in the land, including Gerry de Leon and Lino Brocka. They helped make her one of the best actresses we have.

Of course, Nora has her thespic faults, not the least of which is her limitation to sullen "victim" roles. There are also times when she takes her success for granted, thus quickly corroding it to failure. But she's more mature now, so we pray that she's kinder to herself—and us—this latest time around!

Hoping against hope? I guess that's why they call us Nora's "diehard believers."

Simply choice tracks

Modern Rock 2 / Various Artists
California by Phantom Planet
Keyword:**california**

Lilo & Stitch - OST
Burning Love by Wynonna
Keyword:**burningluv**

You Had Me At Hello / Various Artists
I'll Be by Edwin McCain
Keyword:**illbe**

A Walk To Remember - OST
It's Gonna Be Love by Mandy Moore
Keyword:**gonnabluv**

Reanimation / Linkin Park
Crawling Keyword:**crawling**
My December Keyword:**mydecember**

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3610, Series of 2002.

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TOWER **Top 25 Albums of the Week** M music

	Album	Artist	Keyword
1	**Josh Groban**	Josh Groban	keyword:*cantoallavita*
2	**Room For Squares**	John Mayer	
3	**You Had Me At Hello**	Various Artists	keyword:*illbe* *coolwidu*
4	**Lilo & Stitch-OST**		keyword:*burningluv*
5	**Nellyville**	Nelly	
6	**Sharon 25 Years 25 Hits**	Sharon Cuneta	
7	**Live Series**	Various Artists	
8	**All Rise : Special Edition**	Blue	keyword:*flyby*
9	**Chillout Project**	Various Artists	
10	**Modern Rock 2**	Various Artists	keyword:*california*
11	**Simply The Best 60's**	Various Artists	
12	**A Walk To Remember-OST**		keyword:*gonnabluv*
13	**A Rush Of Blood To The Head**	Coldplay	keyword:*inmyplace*
14	**Reanimation**	Linkin Park	keyword:*crawling* *mydecember*
15	**XXX-OST**		
16	**Very Best Of MTV Unplugged**	Various Artists	
17	**Eminem Show**	Eminem	keyword:*wytamerica*
18	**Come Away With Me**	Norah Jones	
19	**Ono Lisa Best 1997-2001**	Lisa Ono	
20	**Romance**	Frank Sinatra	
21	**Joey's Moods**	Various Artists	
22	**By The Way**	Red Hot Chili Peppers	
23	**Unang Putok**	Sex Bomb	
24	**Broadway Concert**	Lea Salonga	
25	**Forever Love**	Various Artists	

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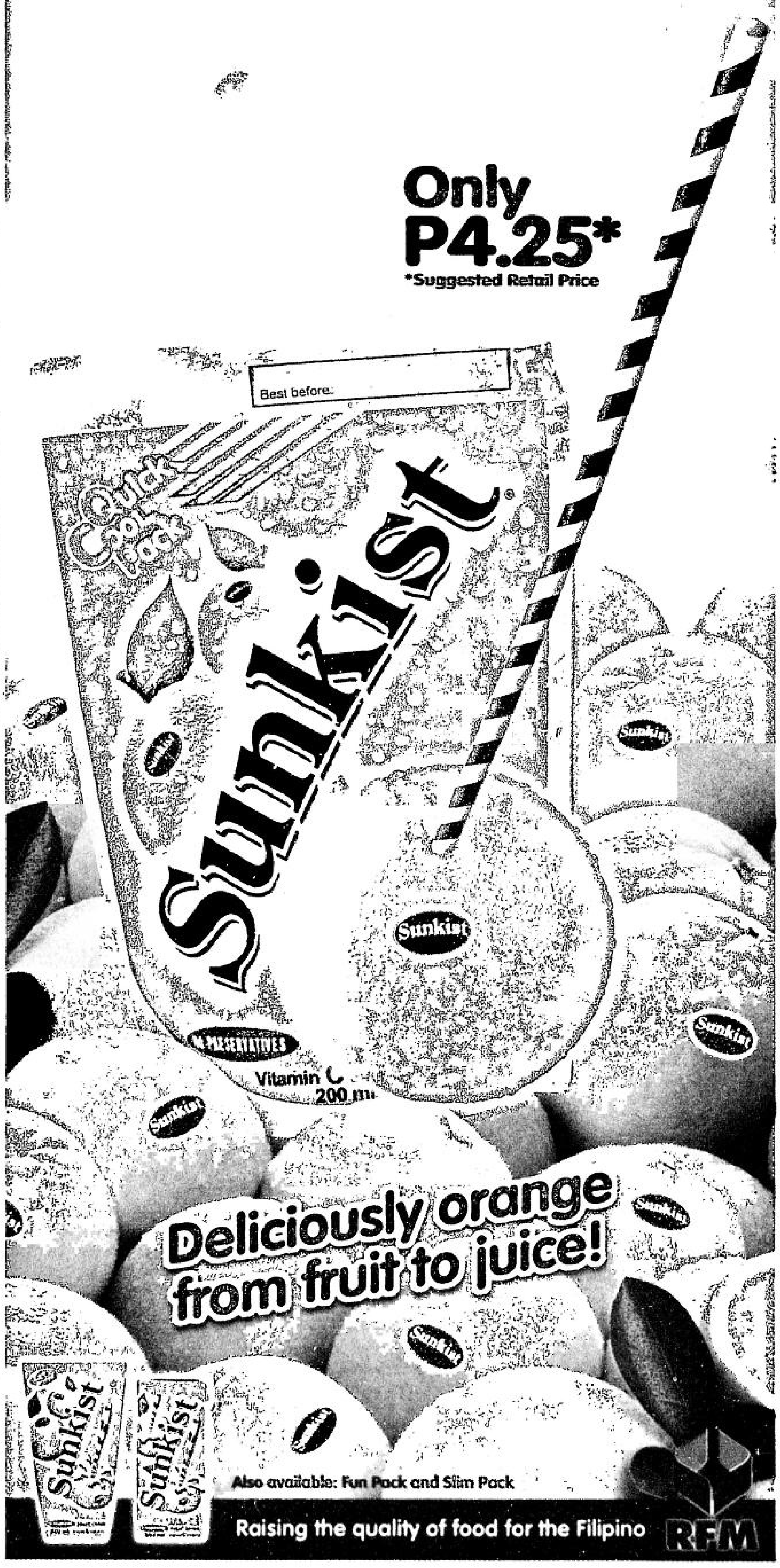

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ON LITTLE TIKES TOYS

Dreams come true for Salma Hayek in 'Frida'

By Shasta Darlington

VENICE—Curled up in an armchair in a red lace dress, feisty Mexican actress Salma Hayek glowed with satisfaction after the world premiere of "Frida," the film she fought for seven years to make.

Standing ovation

The movie, which opened the 59th Venice Film Festival to a standing ovation, tells the story of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo and her troubled love affair with muralist Diego Rivera in the politically charged 1930s and 1940s.

But Hayek, a former soap opera star in Mexico who arrived in Hollywood as a virtual unknown, had to fight for years to see her dream come to life.

"I think the biggest obstacle to making the film was myself because I was so obsessed with Frida and the subject matter that I never felt like it was good enough," she said in an interview in a seaside suite at the exclusive Des Baines hotel.

Hayek, whose father was a Mexican politician of Lebanese descent and whose mother was an opera singer, knew at an early age that she wanted to act.

After making a name for herself in Mexican soap operas and movies like the critically acclaimed "Callejon de los Milagros" (Midaq Alley), Hayek decided to make the leap to Hollywood.

Determination

Though she spoke no English, she jumped into the fray and eventually scored a role in "Desperado," Robert Rodriguez's 1995 sequel to his much-touted "El Mariachi." With her ravishing good looks and determination, she also secured parts in high-profile movies "From Dusk Till Dawn" and "Wild Wild West," but she never took her sights off Frida Kahlo.

The spirit of Mexico

Trying to convince the studios to back a movie about "a hairy woman and a fat man," as Hayek put it, who were Mexicans and communists to boot, was no easy task.

Hayek also had to fight off competition from Jennifer Lopez and Madonna, who were eyeing Frida Kahlo scripts.

But Hayek, inspired by her longtime fascination with the tortured artist, beat them to the gate when she won backing from Miramax for a film that she both produced and starred in.

"I wanted to make a movie that showed the spirit of Mexico. We were part of a bigger movement in the world with a lot of intellectuals and artists and politicians who were kicked out of their countries for being radicals coming to Mexico," she said in her throaty voice and lilting Latino accent.

Shot on location

"Frida," which was directed by Julie Taymor ("Titus") and also stars Alfred Molina, was filmed in English, but shot on location in the heart of Mexico City in the houses that Rivera and Kahlo and Leon Trotsky once called home.

The movie traces the life of Kahlo, from a crippling bus accident to her turbulent relationship with mural painter Rivera to her affair with Trotsky, filling the cinema with Mariachi music and Mexican folklore as well as Kahlo's haunting self-portraits.

"Frida never apologized for being who she was . . . I really admire her courage," said Hayek, whose determination to explore her own identity as a Mexican woman in an artistic medium seems to reflect Kahlo's career.

Reuters

HAYEK. Fought for seven years to make the film.

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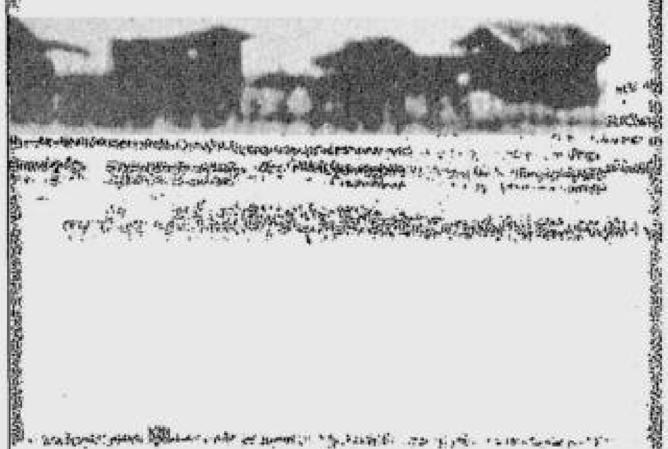

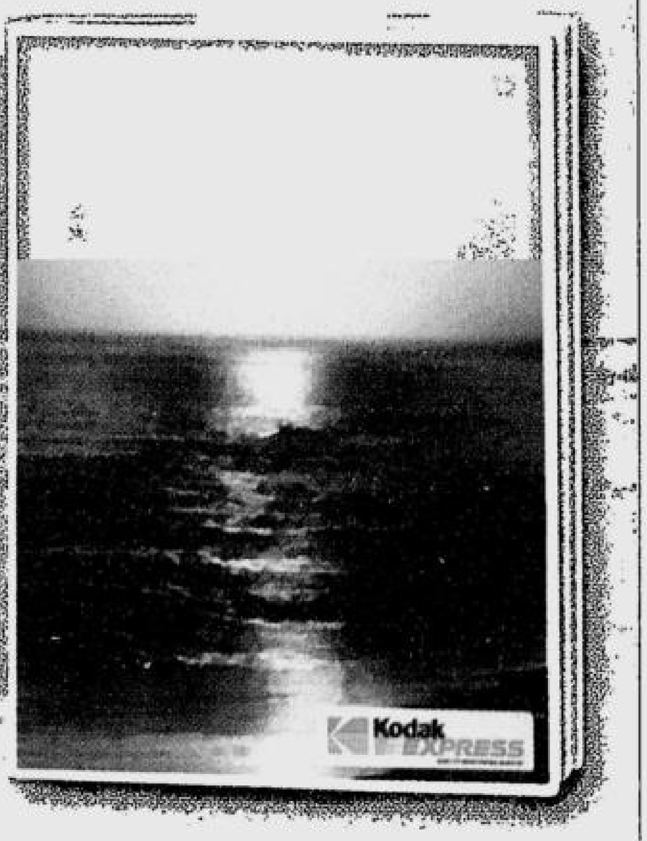

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Spareribs, Java Rice and Mix Vegetables
KIMCHI
Choice of Beef, Chicken, Rice, Soup, Togue, 8oz Iced Tea
Cindys
Sweet & Sour Pork, Rice, Soup, 8oz. Sago't Gulaman

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LYDIA'S LECHON
Paella, Pork Barbecue
Sandy's Cuisine
Beef Chili, Kangkong w/ Oyster Sauce
ILONGGO GRILL
Daing na Bangus, Manggang Hilaw, Plain Rice

P89
Inihaw EXPRESS
Sinigang na Baboy, Inihaw na Bangus, Rice
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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Regine produces Roselle Nava's latest single

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

AFTER the release of "Huwag Ka Nang Babalik," the carrier single of Roselle Nava's latest album, "All About Love," comes a new song called "Open."

While "Huwag Ka Nang Babalik" is a sentimental jukebox ditty, "Open" is a romantic ballad about yearning. Regine Velasquez is the producer of the new song. This is the first time that Regine has worked with Star Records as an album producer.

Roselle feels honored and grateful to have worked with Regine. "I'll never forget the kindness and generosity she showed me. She's very talented and easy to work with. I'm proud to have her as my producer of this new song."

Regine is equally happy to have worked with Roselle because she believes that Roselle is talented and gifted. Regine didn't have any qualms about doing back-up vocals for the song, "Open."

Aubrey Miles stars in 'Prosti'

Aubrey Miles is lucky. She had a short stint on "Beh Bote Nga" before she accepted an eight-film, two-year contract with Regal Films.

Despite the negative connotation and unfavorable consequences that the "bold" label brings, Aubrey remains resolute to take up the challenge.

"I wish they'd just call me a sexy star. My ultimate goal is to be recognized as a good actress, not just someone who bares. I'm glad Erik Matti, my director in 'Prosti' guided me well."

Nora Aunor is happy to be busy again

When Nora Aunor wants to make a noise, it's a sure thing that it will be *loud*!

Take her forthcoming soap opera for ABS-CBN, "Bituin," which starts airing on Sept. 23. The moment she said yes to the offer, Aunor has been in the news almost everyday, and even her contract signing got a lot of press mileage.

She says she's really excited about taping regularly. "*Medyo nakakapanibago pero masaya naman.* Okay *pala maging* busy, *no?*" she says in jest.

In the early evening soap, diva-in-waiting Carol Banawa shares the spotlight with La Aunor, and this is perhaps the biggest test in Banawa's young career.

Aunor gives Banawa a high rating: "*Magaling na bata. Malinis ang boses.*" With La Aunor serving as the wind beneath her wings, Banawa should be thankful to all her lucky stars for this wonderful break!

'Drakula' at the CCP

There's an interesting stage production of "Dracula" at the CCP, and playing the title role is Roeder, who does convincingly well as the vampire.

Director Ana Valdes-Lim succeeds in keeping the pace and the plots interesting and manages to bring out cohesiveness in the play's major elements, specially in the acting department.

The costumes by Danilo Franco are also fabulous.

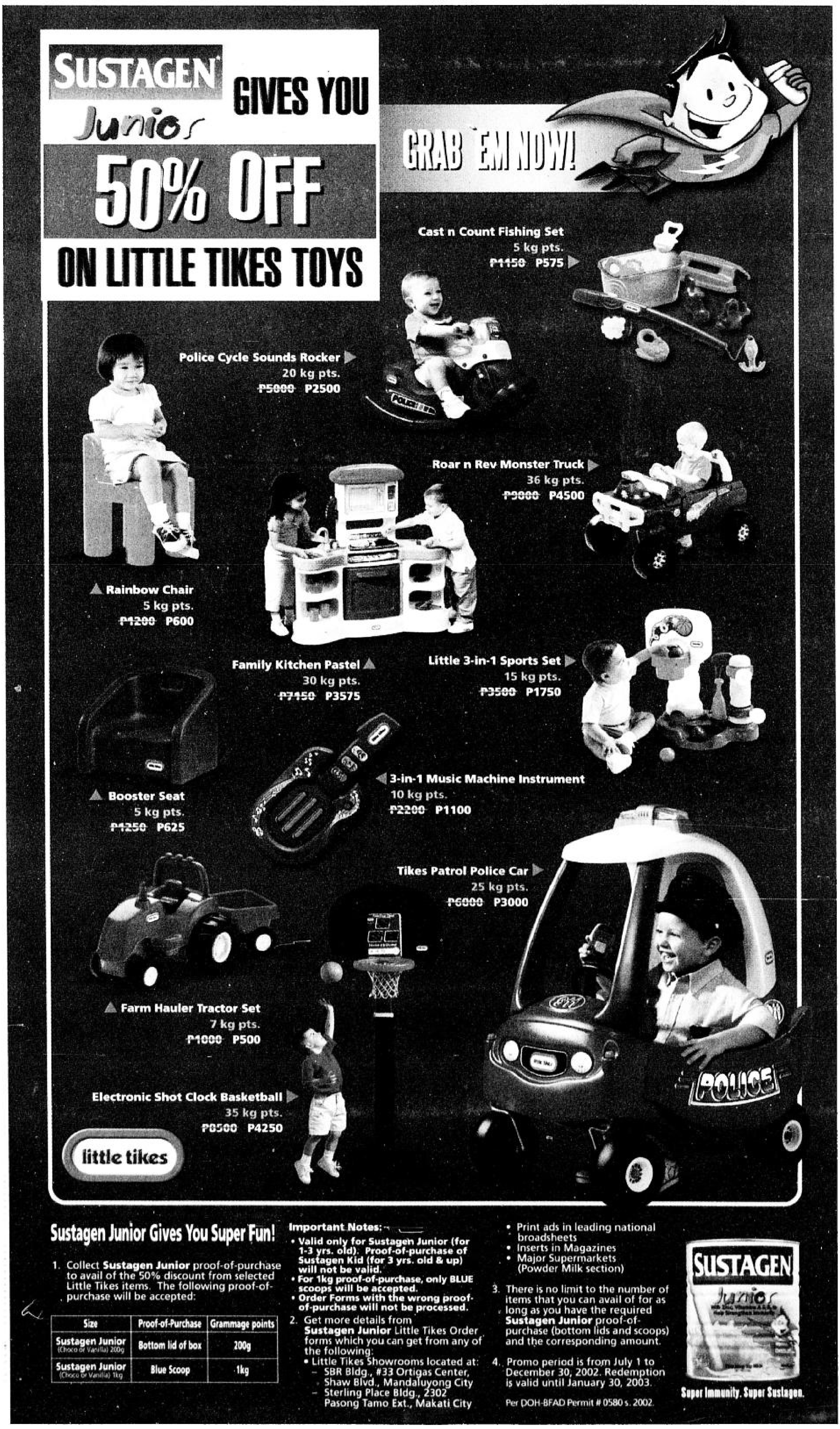
Diether doesn't mind playing 'small' roles

He's a big star now, but Diether Ocampo doesn't feel like one. "I guess that when you start to take stardom seriously, that's the beginning of your downfall," he says.

He doesn't mind playing small roles, saying that it's more important being a good actor than being a star.

NAVA. Feels honored and grateful.

Exactly why he accepted his small role in the movie "Jologs," which is about the lives of 11 people that are interconnected with each other.



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- **Valid only for Sustagen Junior (for 1-3 yrs. old). Proof-of-purchase of Sustagen Kid (for 3 yrs. old & up) will not be valid.**
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- **Order Forms with the wrong proof-of-purchase will not be processed.**

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   - Little Tikes Showrooms located at:
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   - Print ads in leading national broadsheets
   - Inserts in Magazines
   - Major Supermarkets (Powder Milk section)

3. There is no limit to the number of items that you can avail of for as long as you have the required **Sustagen Junior** proof-of-purchase (bottom lids and scoops) and the corresponding amount.

4. Promo period is from July 1 to December 30, 2002. Redemption is valid until January 30, 2003.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit # 0580 s. 2002.

SUSTAGEN Junior

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Quiz show variations through the years

By Nestor U. Torre

WITH quiz shows suddenly so prevalent on television, thanks to the success of programs like "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" and "Game Ka Na Ba?," it's instructive to determine the reasons for their appeal by harking back to past exponents of the quiz format. Some varied examples:

Mind-boggling

"The $64,000 Question." The big-money program rewarded contestants for correctly answering extremely complex questions on whatever subjects they professed to be experts. The appeal of seeing ordinary people sweating through mind-boggling questions to make huge sums of money was enormous.

"Party Line." Bert Parks hosted this phone-in quiz program. He would ask a question, sometimes illustrated with a short film or performed by actors in the studio, and then called a telephone number at random. If the person called was able to answer the question, he won a cash prize.

"Pantomime Quiz." A variation on charades, the show fielded two teams that competed with each other in attempting to act out famous phrases, mottos, literary quotes, etc. Viewers were invited to send in suggestions for phrases to be used in the show, and won prizes if their suggestions were used.

Old movies

"Movieland Quiz." Studio contestants were asked to identify titles and stars of old movies from selected scenes shown on this quiz show.

"Hold That Note." Contestants had to identify a particular tune as soon as possible. The fewer the notes played, the bigger the prize. The first person to correctly identify three tunes in one round got to keep all the money earned in that round.

"Haggis Baggis." Contestants faced a large game board with 25 squares. The object was to guess the identity of the celebrity whose picture was gradually revealed as the squares were uncovered. Each square was shown after a contestant answered a question correctly.

Cryptic quotations

"Guess what." A panel of celebrities was given a series of cryptic quotations and asked to guess: "What is it?"

"Cash and Carry." The show was set in a grocery store, its shelves lined with cans of the sponsor's products, to which were attached questions worth different amounts of money. Viewers could also win a prize by trying to guess what was under a large barrel.

"Can Do." This show offered contestants the chance to win up to $50,000 for correctly guessing whether guest celebrities could successfully perform certain stunts—like operating a construction crane or performing an archery feat.

Big jackpot

"Break the Bank." Contestants chosen from the studio audience were asked a series of questions for increasing amounts of money. They eventually had the chance to win a big jackpot accumulated from past weeks' "savings."

"The Big Surprise." The subject area was chosen by the contestant. There were 10 questions ranging in value from $100 to $100,000. The contestant could also answer two "insurance" questions, which if correctly answered guaranteed the contestant all the money he had won up to that point, regardless of future errors.

"Bid 'N' Buy." Each of four contestants was given $10,000 which he would then use to bid for clues that would help him identify a common object. The winner would receive an expensive prize, plus the right to compete again the following week.

Guest celebrities

"Ask Me Another." Four panelists tried to guess the identities of famous guest celebri-

QUIZ G7

Catherine Deneuve bemoans focus on special effects

By Jane Barrett

VENICE—French actress Catherine Deneuve, star of a new romantic comedy inspired by the 1957 classic "An Affair to Remember," railed on Saturday last week against Hollywood's current love of technology over substance.

Good acting

Deneuve, whose "Au plus pres du paradis" is one of 21 films vying for the Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival, said interesting characters and good acting were losing out in the effects-filled film world.

"Cinema is still a very young art form with extraordinary techniques and very impressive special effects, but sometimes it seems the soul has been taken out of things," Deneuve told reporters, smoking one long, thin cigarette after another.

"The love of technology is bigger than characterization these days. I'm not sure that's what I like but the public certainly seems to," added the 58-year-old, whose face used to feature on French coins and stamps as Marianne, the symbol of the French Republic.

Former lover

"Au plus pres du paradis," which translates as "Nearest to heaven," uses special effects only to ~~make a~~ former lover appear and disappear like a ghost.

It was written specifically for her by French director Tonie Marshall, who was influenced by a declaration Deneuve made in the past that she was "an actress, yes, but at heart a lover." Deneuve's character Fanette is inspired by, and partly lives out, the love story between Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr in "An Affair to Remember" in which Kerr misses a date to meet at the top of the Empire State Building after being hit by a car.

"There are still actors with the quality of a Cary Grant or a Katharine Hepburn but films today are different and the roles ask very different things of them," said Deneuve, who made her breakthrough ~~in the 1963~~ ~~musical~~ "Les Parapluies de Cherbourg." "Somehow it seems films always have to be bigger and better than the last," added the actress, who is also French designer Yves Saint Laurent's muse.

Daughter

But that doesn't mean the end of the silver screen for Deneuve, whose parents were both actors and who has a daughter by one of Italy's most famous film stars, Marcello Mastroianni.

"I think we will see a lot more evolution," she said, adding that film-acting was "a profession with more beauty than most others." This year's Venice Film Festival also saw Italy's Sophia Loren sweeping into town to promote her son's first film "Between Strangers."

But any suggestion the actresses' names were being used to draw people to the box office was cut down in a five-minute tirade from Deneuve.

"I am an actress, not a businesswoman," she ranted at one Italian journalist. "I like my films, even if others don't, and to suggest I am a selling technique is offensive to the great directors I work with." *Reuters*

DENEUVE. Actress and lover.

BITUIN and Radha are cousins.

Bituin and Radha in 'Amazing Nights'

By Gloria P. Sicam

WATCHING these two women together, you'd think that they've known each other since childhood. They know the same songs and have private jokes that you can only have with people you *really* get along with.

TV specials

Well, they're cousins, they tell us, exchanging wide smiles. But no, they didn't grow up together. And prior to this concert, they hadn't really worked together—just on a couple of TV specials.

Maybe it's because when music is in your soul as deeply as it is in these two women, it's easy for souls to connect. I'm talking about Radha and Bituin Escalante—they're in the next treat that "Amazing Nights at the NBC Tent" has for us. And of course, they will be accompanied on the piano by the maestro himself, Ryan Cayabyab, or Mr. C, as everyone fondly calls him.

What do they have in store for us, exactly? Well, they promise "songs from our childhood," according to Bituin—songs from Stevie Wonder, Carole King and Marvin Gaye. They will also pay tribute to OPM classics made popular by Sharon Cuneta.

Colors

Bituin narrates, "*Gagayahin namin sina* Dianne de la Fuente, Carol Banawa, Roselle Nava..." Other themes for medleys that they're toying around with are colors, and people's names. But then again, as it is with these shows, brainstorming is one thing, actual rehearsing is another. Things change.

An idea that was tossed around at the presscon was a medley of old commercial jingles, just to see which ones people remembered. Another was a request portion. Bituin jokes that people are allowed to request... just provide the lyrics please!

Both of them have worked with Mr. C. before—Bituin as an actress in his plays and Radha in 14K, one of the first batches, with Jeffrey Hidalgo and Tony Lambino.

What's it like for Radha, to be working with Mr. C again after all these years? "I think it's gonna be fun, because I'm meeting him at a different age. He was my mentor, and now it's another level *na*. You learn a lot of new things."

Rock star

Mr. C. says he was quite surprised that one of his 14K went into rock, but he spoke like a proud father talking about a daughter. Is it a major adjustment for Radha to be working with just a piano, since she's used to working with bands?

"I did a show before where it was just a guitarist and me. And it was really interesting, but it was also very scary. *Kasi ma-off ka lang ng konti, halatang-halata.* But I don't have any apprehensions."

"Amazing Nights at the Tent" with Bituin Escalante, Radha and Mr. C will be on Sept. 19, at 9:15 p.m.

Quiz show. . .

From page G2

ties from the field of sports. Each guest stood behind a shadow curtain while the panelists asked questions to try to figure out who he was.

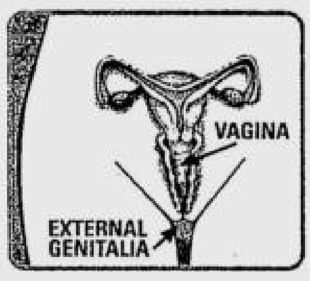
"The Art Ford Show." Three radio deejays tried to guess composers, singers and orchestras involved in various records played on the air. The disc jockey with the most correct answers at the end of the program received a big prize.

"Anyone Can Win." Four celebrities completed in a general quiz. Before the show started, members of the studio audience were asked to pick which celebrity they thought would answer the most questions correctly. Those who had correctly guessed the winner won cash prizes.

The Truth
Every Woman Should Know

Kung walang sakit, 'di mo kailangan ng gamot for everyday feminine care.

FACT 1: The vagina and the external genitalia are not the same.
The vagina is the canal that connects the uterus and the external genitalia. The external genitalia, on the other hand, is the exposed part of the female sex organ which includes the outer and inner lip covered with pubic hair.

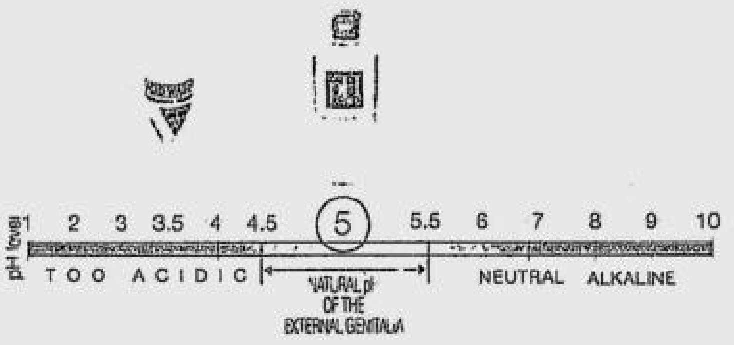


FACT 2: The vagina and the external genitalia have different pH levels.
The vagina has a pH level near 3.5 while the external genitalia has a pH level between 4.5 and 5.5.

pH level refers to the level of acidity or alkalinity of a liquid measured from pH 1 to 14. pH levels that are lower than pH 4.5 are considered too acidic while those higher than pH 5.5 are too alkaline for your external genitalia.

FACT 3: You need a daily feminine wash that matches the pH level of your external genitalia and not your vagina.
Remember that it is your external genitalia that you wash everyday, not your vagina. You wash the part that is exposed and not the canal that is inside.

FACT 4: That is why for everyday feminine care, 'di mo kailangan ng gamot. You need an everyday feminine wash.
Ang feminine wash na gamot should be used for the external genitalia only when there are infections and irritations. It is too harsh for everyday use for the external genitalia. Ang soap naman too alkaline. Using either of these will disrupt the natural balance in your external genitalia and may cause irritation and dryness when used daily.



FACT 5: For everyday feminine care, you need pH care.
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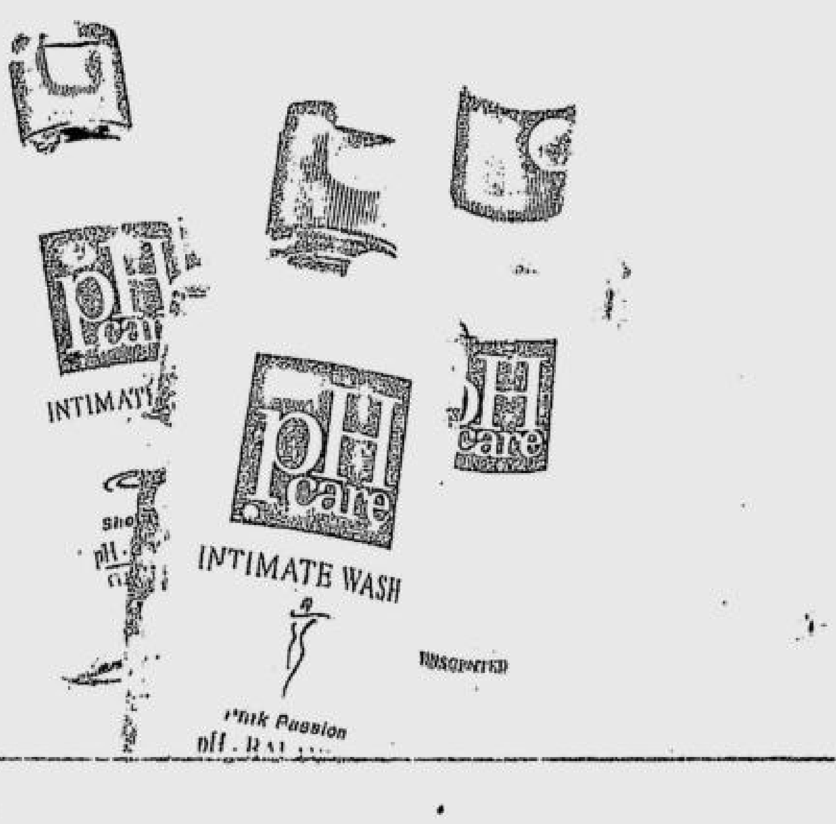

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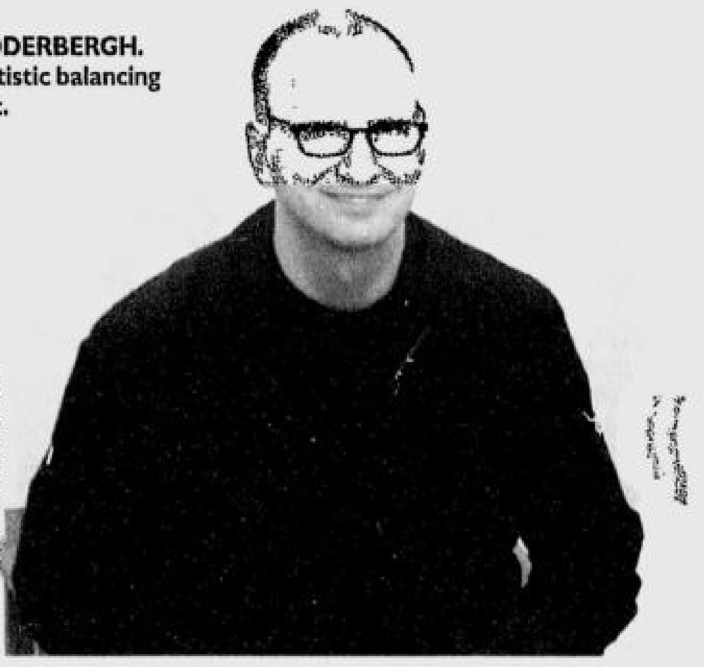


SODERBERGH. Artistic balancing act.

Soderbergh brushes off 'Full Frontal' criticism

By Jane Barrett

VENICE—Last year Steven Soderbergh was making Oscar history and was the toast of Hollywood but now he's fighting disparaging critics who "don't get" his new film.

Shoestring budget

"Full Frontal," a star-laden film shot on a shoestring budget, has been panned by many of the critics who cheered him to a historic double nomination for the 2001 best director Oscar, which he won for "Traffic." "The critics have taken 'Full Frontal' seriously whereas in fact it is a satire," Soderbergh told reporters at the Venice Film Festival, where the movie was one of 18 showing in the "Upstream," or experimental, competition.

"Films come in two categories—those which tell and those which show. Critics only want the first sort because stories fit into their scheme of things. If things don't fit their scheme, they get mad," said the director whose 1989 debut film "sex, lies and videotape" earned him a Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

"Full Frontal" boasts a cast that would usually cost millions, including "X-Files" star David Duchovny and Julia Roberts, who won the 2001 Golden Globe and Oscar for her leading role in Soderbergh's "Erin Brockovich." The script that hit the actors' doormat was prefaced with several rules—including a demand to shoot on location with hand-held cameras.

Reality

The method keeps down costs but more importantly builds up the reality of the film—in the case of "Full Frontal," the tale of quirky and dysfunctional relationships between lonely Los Angelinos.

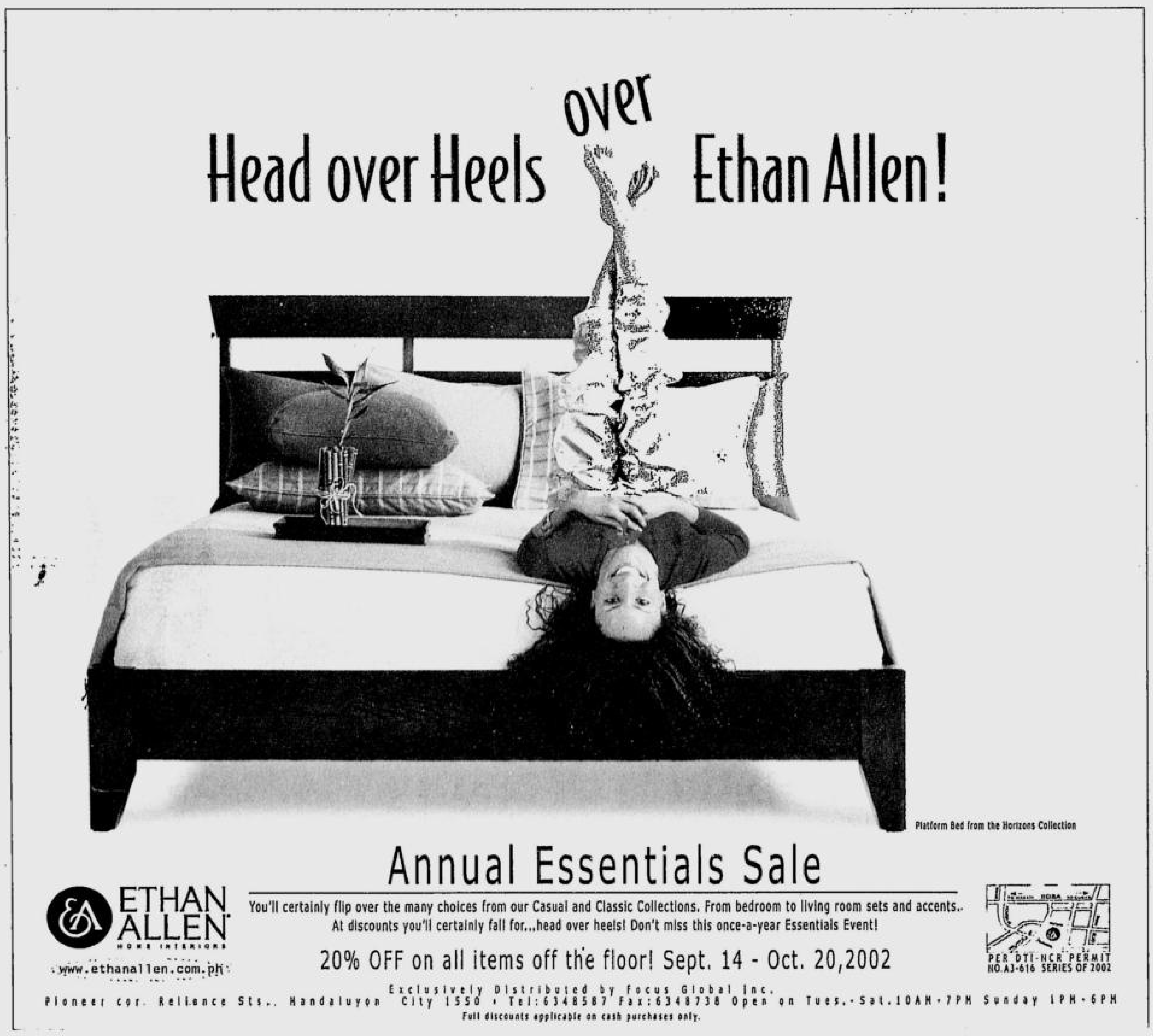
Actors were told to drive themselves to the set, forego plush trailers to hang out in between takes and take care of their own wardrobe.

Roberts was reportedly paid $3,000 for a film that cost about $2 million to make. Not only that, she also had to provide her own make-up, costumes and hair-styling.

The hand-held camera shots give a sense of peering into the characters' lives like a voyeur rather than being presented with a canned image.

"Reality shows are all the rage on TV at the moment . . . but that's not reality, it's just another aesthetic form of fiction," said Soderbergh, predicting that one of the film's legacies would be a valuable snapshot of the "real" Los Angeles.

The return to bare essentials is part of the artistic balancing act for the director of last year's big-budget Hollywood hit "Ocean's Eleven." "'Ocean's Eleven' and 'Full Frontal' are the exact opposite of each other but I couldn't have done one without doing the other," he said. "You need to recharge your batteries." *Reuters*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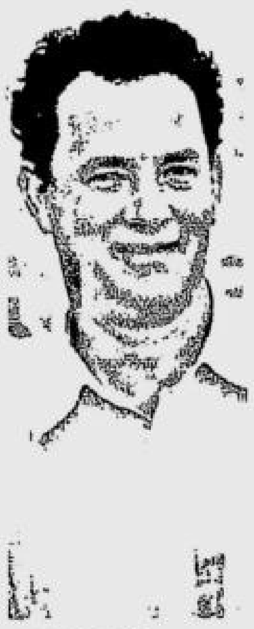
Tom Hanks' views on Sept. 11 tragedy



HANKS. Efforts to comprehend the attacks would require "a long personal journey of consciousness."

DEAUVILLE, France—"Saving Private Ryan" star Tom Hanks, who recently returned to France's Normandy beaches to promote his new film, used the spotlight to speak about the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Assassinations

"The attacks of 9/11 are like Pearl Harbor, John F. Kennedy's and Martin Luther King's assassinations all wrapped into one," Hanks told a press conference in this chic Channel resort town.

"It will take years to come to grips with what it means for our generation," the actor noted, adding that efforts to comprehend the attacks would require "a long personal journey of consciousness." Hanks' latest film, the 1930s Chicago gangster epic "Road to Perdition," was screened at Deauville's American film festival. The two-time Oscar winner also presented the movie at the rival Mostra festival in Venice.

Hit man

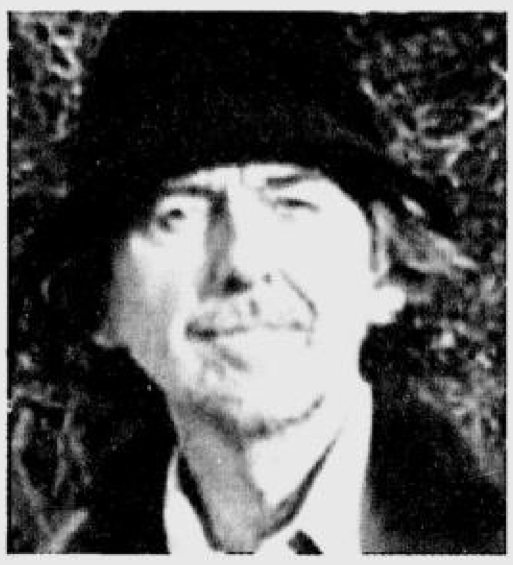
Hanks plays a hit man determined to protect his son and avenge his murdered family after being betrayed by the underworld clan he works for. The critical acclaim showered on the film in the United States has sparked Oscar buzz.

The competition in Deauville showcased small independent US films, but the event embraced big-budget Hollywood releases and attracted top-name stars like Hanks. *AFP*

SATURDAY*Special*

Posthumous Harrison album set for November release

LOS ANGELES—The album ex-Beatle George Harrison recorded in the last months of his life as he fought a losing battle with cancer will be released in November, 10 days before the first anniversary of his death, his recording company said on Monday.



HARRISON. 11 new compositions.

New solo material

"Brainwashed," the first release of new solo material from the former lead guitarist for the Beatles since his 1987 album, "Cloud Nine," features 11 new Harrison compositions and one cover track.

The record was produced by Harrison in collaboration with his son, Dhani, and longtime friend and fellow musician Jeff Lynne.

"Before we started working on the album, George and Dhani had collaborated extensively on pre-production," Lynne said in a statement. "George would come 'round my house and he'd always have

POSTHUMOUS/H2

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1	tsp	whole black peppercorns
1/4	cup	vinegar
2	pcs	bay leaves
1	tbsp	Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
3	cups	water or stock
		salt or fish sauce

Preparation

Wash the pork and chicken pieces. Heat a heavy saucepan and brown pork pieces. Set aside. In the same saucepan, brown the chicken pieces. Set aside. Put the pork pieces back into the pan and add the chopped and roasted garlic. Add the vinegar and scrape the brown bits from the bottom of the pan Add the bay leaves, whole peppercorns and Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Add 2 cups of water and simmer the mixture.

When the pork pieces are half done, add the chicken and the remaining stock and continue cooking until the pork pieces are tender and the chicken thighs are cooked through.

More stock may be added until the desired tenderness is achieved. However, the trick is adding just a little water or stock at a time so that the flavour of the stew is not lost. Season to taste with salt or fish sauce. Serve with freshly cooked plain rice. Serving size: 4 persons.

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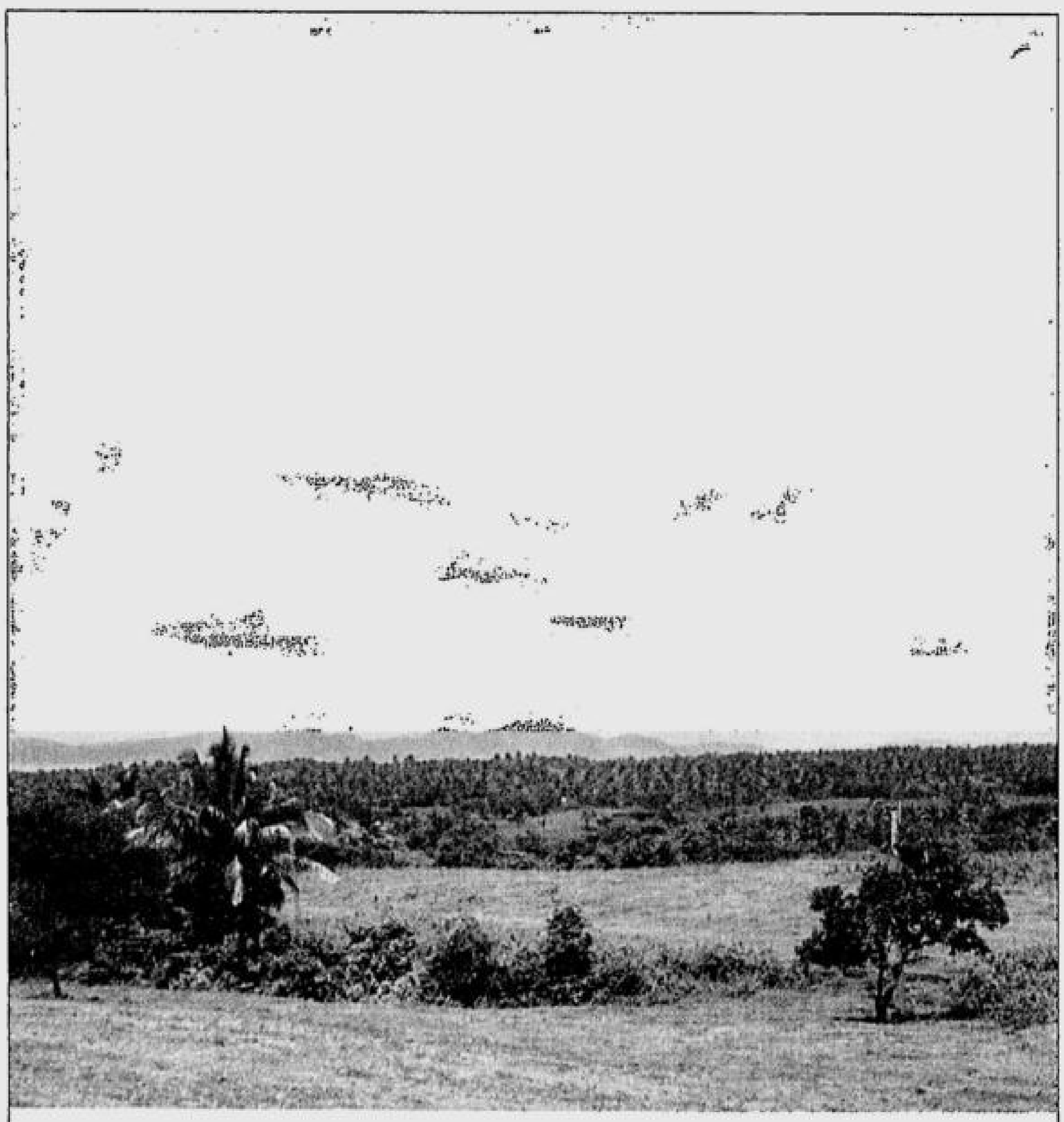


Wide open spaces

"Let the water below the sky come together in one place so that the land will appear"—and it was done.

LEISURE FARMS

to enjoy the fruits of your labor

And there He put the man He had formed. He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit.

LEISURE FARMS

Raymond Bagatsing aims for self-mastery

By Ronald G. Mangubat

BAGATSING. Spiritual hunger.

ACTOR Raymond Bagatsing's spartan discipline is a tough act to follow. He meditates twice a day, is a strict vegetarian, shuns food and water for 24 hours twice a month, practices an ancient form of martial arts, and reads voraciously on religion and philosophy during shooting breaks.

Fierce discipline

For someone who professes to have led a hedonistic life several years ago, such fierce discipline seems unthinkable. But for Raymond, this is all part of his lifelong quest for spirituality and self-mastery.

"I've always been searching," Raymond explains, "and dramatic changes normally happen when one hits rock bottom. You confront yourself and make a choice—*gusto ko bang tapusin na ang lahat, o gusto ko pang mabuhay?*" Such a tough decision requires a major deconstruction of self postulates.

It resulted in a self-reinvention that rubbed off on his artistic passions and yearnings. Today, he plays classical guitar with more feeling, writes poetry with deeper introspection, and acts with greater depth.

According to the 30-year-old actor, this renewed combination of fire and calmness was a result of a protracted struggle between wrestling his personal demons and his continuous search for meaning.

Soap opera

"My life used to be a soap opera. Anyone who comes from a broken family has pains and scars that take long to heal. In my case, *marami akong mga kabayo sa utak na masyadong* wild. *Tanong ako ng tanong!*"

Part of his quest was answered last year when he met his true love in the person of actress Lara Fabregas. Their two-week romance resulted in a much-talked-about Ananda Marga wedding. From there, the couple's spiritual search went even deeper.

Marriage has definitely changed Raymond's life, though he says both he and Lara are still paying the consequences of their whirlwind romance. "We practically didn't go through the getting-to-know-you stage, so we experienced a certain degree of difficulty. Both of us came from broken families, and we are in the same profession, so it wasn't really smooth-sailing.

"But we have survived one year and we're trying our best to smoothen out the rough edges of our relationship. Deepening our spiritual life helps a lot."

His spiritual search started when he was eight years old in Australia. "I remember I wanted to be a priest, and I could vividly recall *na alam ko na pansamantala lang ako rito sa mundo.* There were times when I'd talk to God and say, *ayoko na rito, kunin mo na ako.*"

Later, he realized that the priesthood was not his calling, but his spiritual hunger grew as he waded through the uncharted waters of puberty and adulthood.

"Now I'm slowly coming to terms," he declares. "*Hindi ko lang nakikita yung* path, medyo *nahahawakan ko na siya.*"

Notable films

The star of such notable films as "Kriminal ng Baryo Concepcion," "Milagros," "Soltera," "Bayad Puri," "Burlesk King" and "Bata Bata Paano Ka Ginawa?" hopes to be able to portray even more challenging roles that would reveal his multifaceted persona. "My dream is to be able to show the real me onscreen," he shares

And just who is the real Raymond Bagatsing? He pauses briefly and smiles, "*Palaisip,* observant, *matagal mag*-warm up *pero pag nakasundo mo, makulit at* cowboy. I'm easily moved to tears—from cartoons to scenes of father and son hugging each other, to caricatures. *Maraming bagay.*"

Perhaps there are snippets of his real self in all the roles he has portrayed, but the questioning public still can't piece together the mysterious persona of this Virgo. He can be as mean as the devil or as gentle as an angel, and the audience remains mystified.

Raymond confesses to meticulously study each character assigned to him, and takes time to research in order to immerse himself in his roles.

"When I portray a gay role, *isang buwan pa lang,* gay *na ako.* I carry it for a long time *kaya* when the shooting stops, I get into a period of depression, *kasi hinahanap ko ulit yung sarili ko.*"

Toughest role

The toughest role he has portrayed, he says, is the character of Serafin in Lav Diaz's "Ang Kriminal ng Baryo Concepcion." There I played a *provinciano,* so I had to let go of my city ways. I studied the Nueva Ecija accent, and the shooting was really tough because we had to finish everything in two weeks.

"*Walang tulugan,* and I didn't talk much to anyone during the duration of the shoot. *Masyado akong* intense. After that, *isang buwan akong* depressed."

Such convolutions of self can be debilitating to Raymond, that's why he feels his newfound spirituality gives him balance and peace.

"I'm happiest when I have total self-control. *Ang buhay ko, kung hindi ko hahawakan,* bound for disaster *'yan, kaya masaya ako pag nahahawakan ko siya ng maayos.* I used to like alcohol. I liked all the bad things, *kaya ko tinigil kasi nage*-enjoy *ako masyado. Di pwede 'yon,*" he avers.

After acting in 44 movies, Raymond still feels his life as an artist has barely begun. Forever learning, he observes the various

RAYMOND/H4

Time for viewers to speak up

By Nestor U. Torre

FAMILY FILMS OR SEX FLICKS. Which will Filipino moviegoers favor more?

FOR several film seasons now, local movie buffs have rued the fact that many Filipino films produced are graphic sex dramas. Producers counter that the industry is in a slump, and making sex flicks is the most economical way for them to gain the patronage of the viewing public.

Biggest hits

On the other hand, observers point out that many sexy movies, particularly the cheapies and quickies, have not been doing well at the box office, and that the biggest hits have in fact been family films. So, producers don't really have to do sex flicks to make money.

But family films aren't as economical to produce, and require more time and creative involvement, so sexy movies continue to be made, even if they're giving the film industry a bad rep in the public's eyes.

In fact, more expensive and glossier sex flicks are now being produced, some of them by name producers, and they're faring better at the tills. They're also getting into trouble with the MTRCB, with combative counter-changes of sexual exploitation and curtailment of artistic freedom being bandied about.

Muddled

How will this latest teapot tempest play itself out? The situation has become muddled and complex due to the hidden agendas of both combative groups.

The classifiers refuse to admit that they have become more conservative than the last dispensation, and the makers of sex flicks deny that some of their productions are exploitative and prurient.

So, the all-too-familiar exchange of diatribes and fulminations roils around the viewing public again and again, *ad nauseam.*

Can this strident conflict ever be resolved? Only when the viewing public, the only silent component in this combative situation, finally and decisively makes itself heard.

Bottom line

This is the bottom line: if some sex flicks are hits, that means that many viewers like them enough to pay good money to see them. If family films are even bigger hits, that means that more people prefer seeing them. A review of the grosses of local films for the past six months will tell us which film type is really more popular here.

Another view: It could be that there are *two* different kinds of viewers for Filipino movies—the family crowd and the sex aficionados—and viewer-specific movies for either audience will continue to be made. To each his own, in other words. Live and let live.

Other film types

But the situation may not be that simplistic. If graphic flicks are popular, they lure other producers to make similar movies, so the other film types suffer.

Like we've said, the situation has become muddled and complex. If the combative sides can't shed genuine light on the issue, we're left once more with the viewing public, which must finally speak up, because it has the most to gain or lose in this recurring cinematic skirmish.

Posthumous Harrison album set . . .

From page H1

a new song with him. He would strum them on a guitar or ukulele. The songs just knocked me out."

Lynne, onetime leader of the Electric Light Orchestra, performed with Harrison as part of the Grammy-winning Traveling Wilburys supergroup in the late 1980s. He went on to help produce the Beatles' "Anthology" series and also worked individually with Harrison's former bandmates, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney.

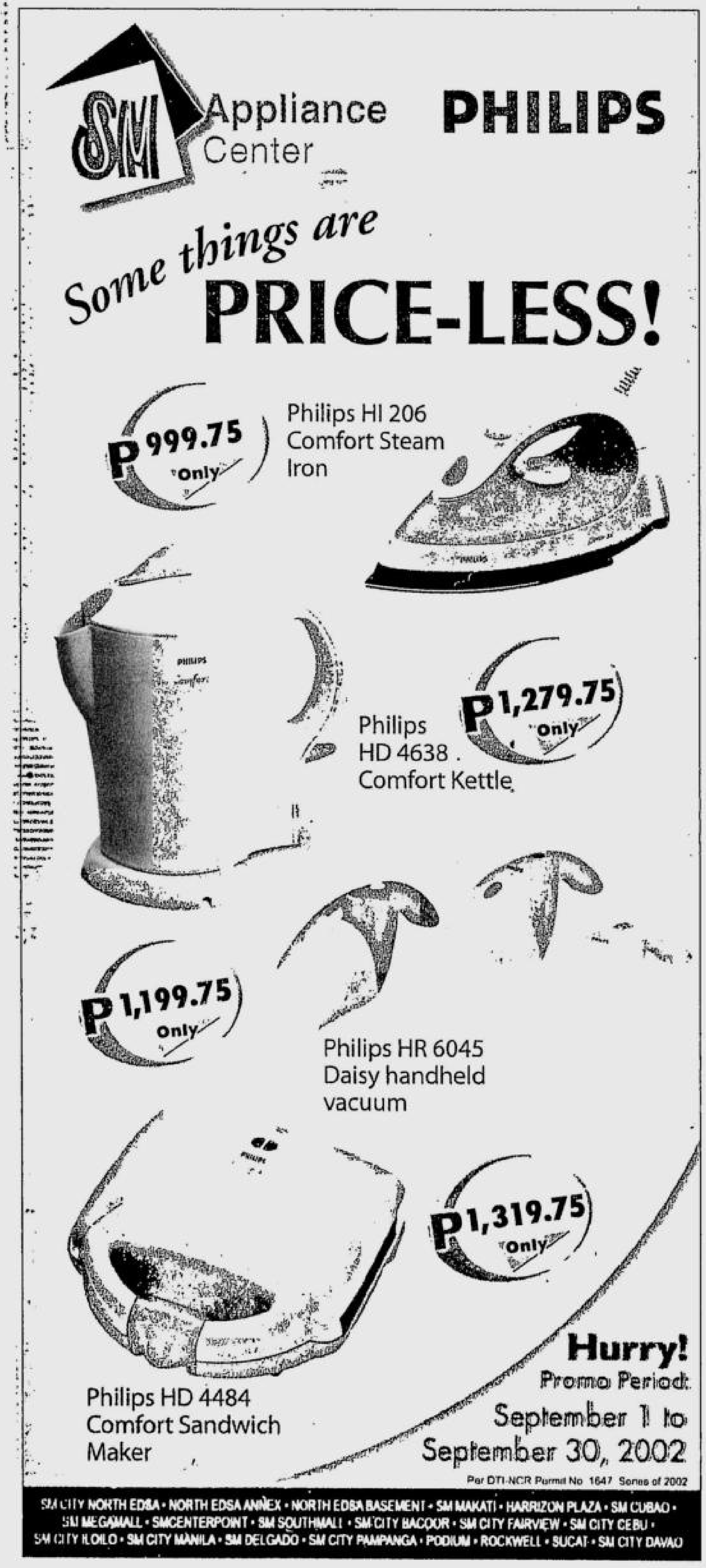
Spiritual energy

"George constantly talked about how he wanted the album to sound," Lynne said of "Brainwashed." "And there was always that spiritual energy that went into the lyrics as well as the music."

The album is set for release Nov. 19 by Harrison's own Dark Horse label in conjunction with EMI Recorded Music, a unit of record giant EMI Group Plc . Harrison, remembered from his Fab Four days as the "Quiet Beatle," died on Nov. 29, 2001, at age 58 following a long battle with cancer.

During the final months of his life, Harrison was reported to have been quietly working on 25 previously unreleased tracks for a final album then provisionally titled "Portrait of a Leg End," an apparent nod to his ambivalent attitude toward fame.

Reuters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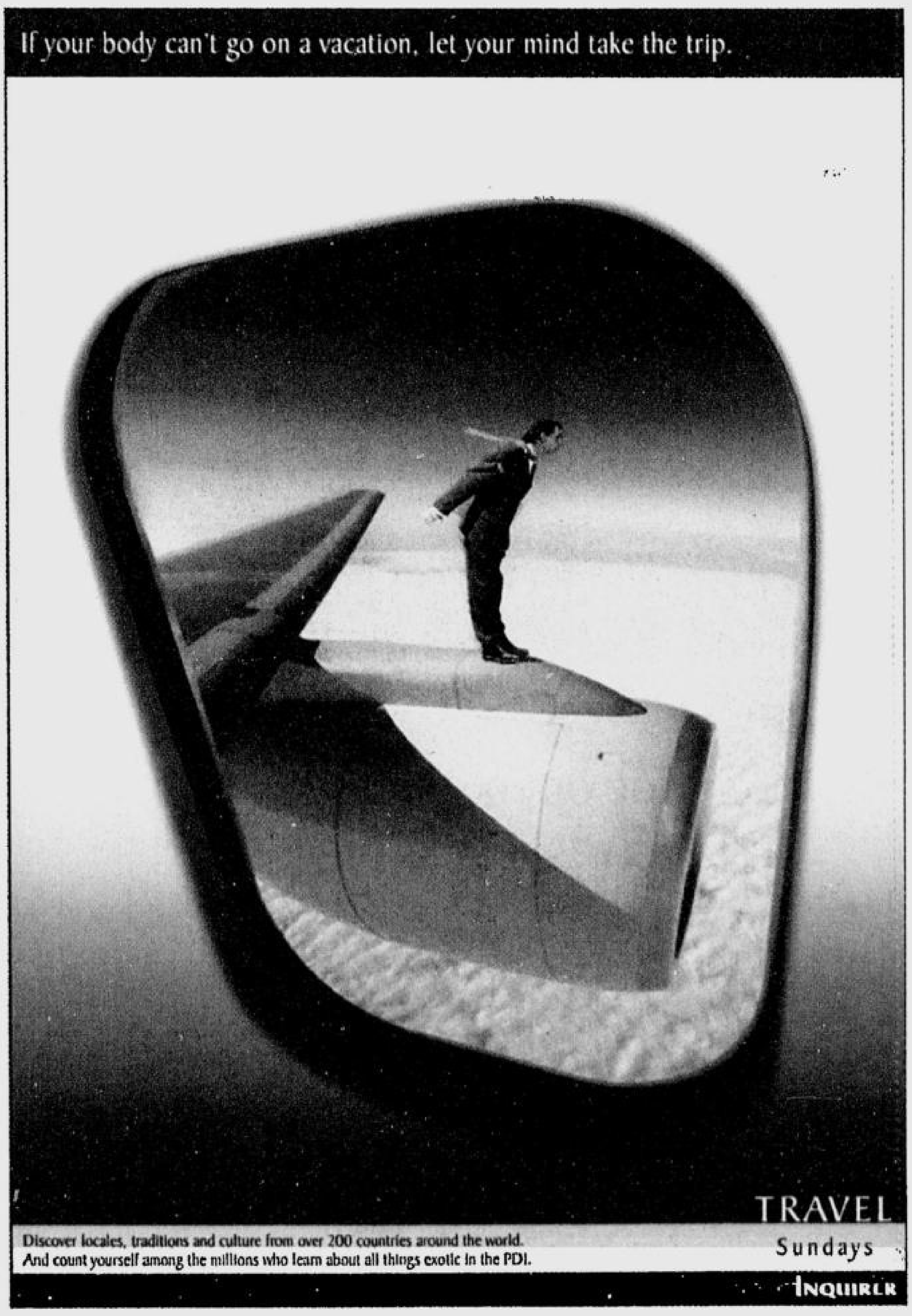
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INQUIRER

Spotlight on Tribe of Levi and Stonefree bands

By Remy M. Umerez

BOY bands may be on the wane abroad, but definitely not here. Last week alone, we saw the launching of four different groups. Two of these bands are Tribe of Levi and Stonefree.

Success

The success of their single album which Neo Records released last year contributed to the making of their first full album, and Viva's recording boss Vincent del Rosario is satisfied with the results.

Megastar Sharon Cuneta is also hooked on the Tribe's music. "I stayed on to listen to them because I like their sound. I'm eager to hear their new album," she says.

The Tribe of Levi is composed of Zaq Salazar, lead vocalist and Robbie Rapsmith, vocalist and master rapper. The rhythm section is made up of five staunch musicians with Emerson Texon on guitar, Mark Anthony Ayangco on drums, Ramil Servales on bass, Edward Mitra on keyboards and Lauren C on sax and flute.

Dance ditty

The band's self-titled 18-track album has three songs spun off for airplay. "Your Smile" is a happy pop dance ditty and has broken in at 89.8. It is also enjoying good exposure on the very uppity 99.5 RT.

Often heard on 94.7 Mellow Touch is "La La Means I Love You." Popularized by the Jackson Five, a new jazzy flavor with rap lyrics has been added by the group.

The third song is the "The Way We Were." The Tribe of Levi has given the song a new touch and millennial appeal.

Meanwhile, Stonefree is composed of Regle and Relly Mangubat, Benson Jay Tanoja and Miro Valera, all from UP Diliman and very proud of their original Filipino and English compositions. They hold day jobs and come together as a band at night.

Compilation demo

Stonefree has a compilation demo dubbed "Listen" which includes "Baka Naman," "Kapag Mawala Ka," "Scar," "Water," and "Listen," which is the theme song of ABC-5's latest reality show, "Single."

In form, Stonefree bandmates are relaxed in their vintage jeans and worn-out tees. When it comes to sound, it is another story altogether. For more than a month now, Stonefree has been a weekend crowd-pleaser at Tapika restaurant along Katipunan rd., Quezon City.

STONEFREE. Weekend crowd-pleaser at Tapika restaurant.

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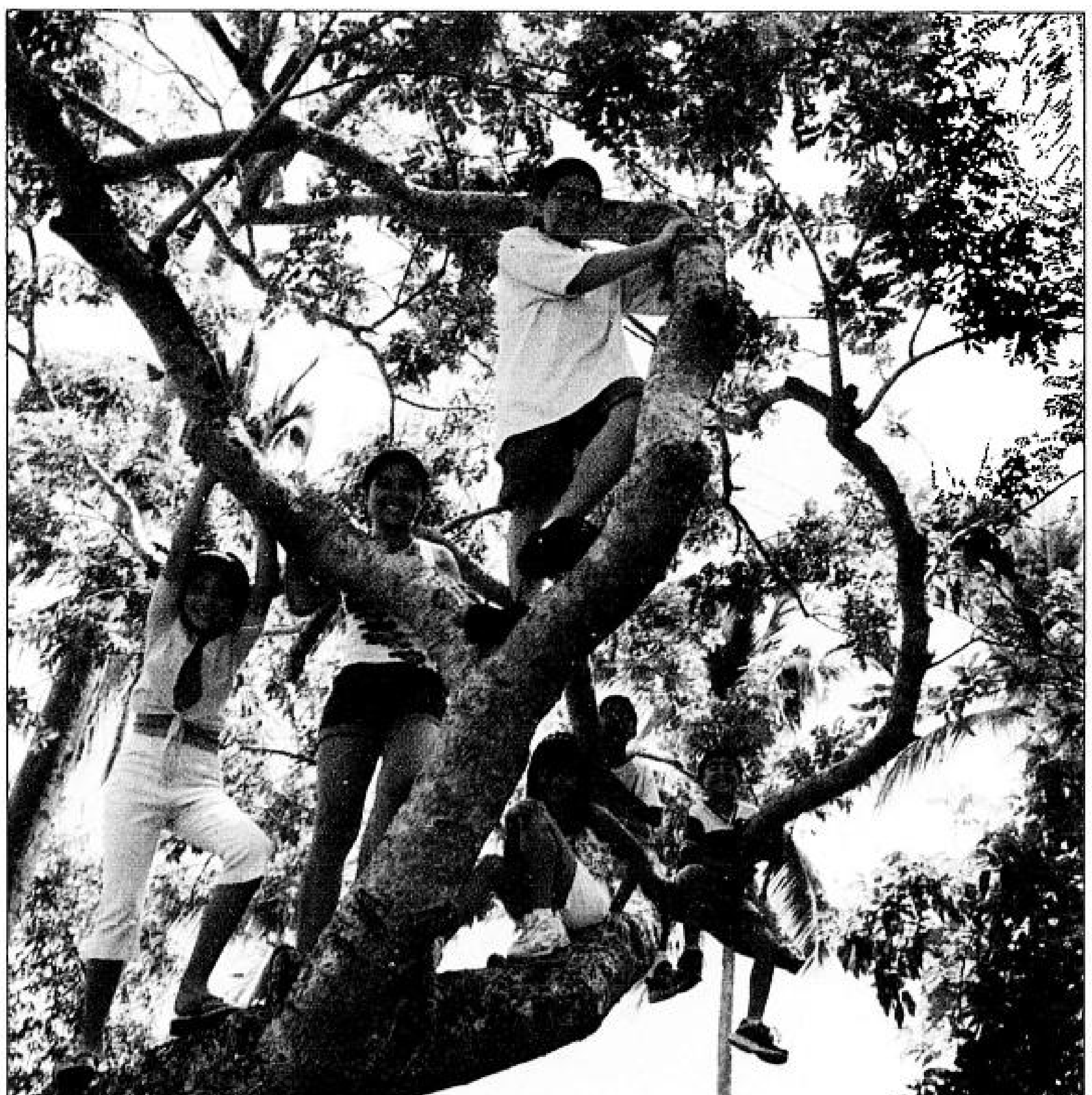
to raise crops, flowers....

Then He commanded. "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit." And it was done.

LEISURE FARMS



...and children

He created them male and female, blessed them, and said, "Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control."

LEISURE FARMS

In search of Marilyn Monroe's resting place

MONROE. No dumb blonde, she.

By Behn Cervantes

HAVING been considerably impressed by the love demonstrated by Rudoph Valentino fans 76 years after his tragic death, Mac del Fierro, my obliging host and tour guide in California, recommended that we next find Marilyn Monroe's final resting place in the ritzy Wilshire section of Los Angeles.

Marilyn would be a fine one to cap the cemetery celebrity tour we had that day, I agreed. Wasn't the '50s Blond Bombshell one of the greatest of Hollywood's female sex symbols, at par with the likes of Jean Harlow, the original platinum femme fatale?

Directions

Mac made the appropriate telephone calls and got the directions to the Westwood Mortuary and Memorial Park just off Wilshire blvd. We were now caught in the deep desire to revive memories of still another great Hollywood legend.

Marilyn's life was often stranger than fiction, more melodramtic than some of the movies she starred in. Wasn't she supposedly the unwanted child of an emotionally-troubled woman who ended up in an insane asylum? Didn't her early biographers make much of her girlhood, when she was shuttled from one foster home to another, unloved and unwanted in all of them, or so she claimed?

However, she soon blossomed into a well-endowed young lady who married at the young age of 17 to find security and build the home she never had.

Sex appeal

Alas, the Pacific War came along and snatched her husband of a few months away from her. While he fought in the Pacific, she dutifully worked in airplane factories where her smoldering sex appeal attracted men by the dozens.

She had always dreamt of becoming a movie star, so she made the professional rounds and became a ramp model. Since she was extremely photogenic and gifted with a succulent body plus an All-American face, she soon adorned many a male magazine. In need of money, she even agreed to pose in the nude as long as the photographer's wife was in the room during the modeling session.

Her visibility got her a movie contract with Twentieth Century Fox, but she remained a starlet for many years, no matter if she divorced her husband and was kept by a powerful Hollywood producer.

She took dance and singing lessons but was no competition for the likes of Betty Grable or June Haver. She took acting seriously but remained an insecure person, unsure if and when she could deliver the dramatic goods.

Kid gloves

Therefore, she had to be treated with kid gloves by directors in order to bring out the talent she was uncertain she possessed. Years later, Actors' Studio guru Lee Strasberg certified that she had real dramatic potential. Her stirring performances in "Don't Bother to Knock" and "All About Eve" proved that there was something behind that "dumb blonde" look.

Her beguiling performance in "Bus Stop" alerted critics to the fact that she had mastered the art of film acting when given the required confidence by sensitive directors like Billy Wilder and Mervyn LeRoy.

Le Roy realized she did best when left to her own devices: He was convinced that she had an innate comic sense that emerged in a scene when left to "blossom" on Marilyn's own emotional time.

Sir Laurence Olivier, accustomed to more discipline in classical theater, demanded precision and so was completely frustrated with her method, or apparent lack of it, as well as her unpredictable nature during the filming of "The Prince and the Showgirl." The knighted actor could not abide by Marilyn's moods and immature tantrums. In time, he detested her. The feeling was decidedly mutual!

Tabloids

Marilyn's life was an unhappy but colorful one. It was constant gossip material for the sensational tabloids. Her career was characterized by constant ups and downs, for not only was the sensational star psychologically unstable, but she had also become dependent on drugs, alcohol

IN SEARCH/H7

Hwang's scripts build bridges between east and west

By Nestor U. Torre

ONE of the most successful Asian scriptwriters working in the US is David Henry Hwang. Since his latest achievement is his reworking of the playscript of "Flower Drum Song," which will open soon on Broadway with Lea Salonga in the female lead role, we're running Hwang's insights into his own work:

Pain

"Why do I like mixing very serious subjects and humor? Well, think about it: pain is the source of a lot of comedy. Sometimes, as in 'M. Butterfly,' the Asian translates it into anger, like when the pain character humiliates the white man at the end. I was always uncomfortable with that, because I didn't want to acknowledge that so much anger had come out of me. But I now see that it did reflect some of my own anxieties, anger and angst about being an Asian in a predominantly Caucasian world.

"My 'unusual' success in theater and film in America? A lot of it is luck. If you look at the construct of the US commercial theater, a lot of it just depends on the opinion of The New York Times. I don't quite know how to get around that.

Helpful

"Come to think of it, the regional theater movement is very helpful in that regard. And that's why so many of the interesting plays that have hit New York in the past few years have come out of the not-for-profit theater.

"My work in films started when we adapted 'M. Butterfly' for the big screen. It was a great learning experience for me. Essentially, it was trying to achieve the same task, but by using different muscles.

"The clearest difference is that in theater the dialogue drives the action, while it's the reverse in film—the visuals drive the action and the dialogue usually supports it.

Ideas

"That's why, when I write a play, I start with ideas rather than images. I generally need to know what the play's beginning and end will be, and the fun of writing is in finding the best way to navigate between the two points.

"It's like a road trip from one city to another—I know where I'm going, but I don't know how to get there. And the fun is in finding the road!

"My being an Asian American writer has been both a bane and a blessing. It's made me stand out, but it's also limited my audience, at least at the start, because my work was rooted in the Chinese-American immigrant experience, which not everybody could relate to. But that's changed.

Specifics

"Ultimately, it's the writer's careful attention to the specifics of the cultural situation that allows his work to be universal. That's why it's useful to have a 'general audience,' because it lets you find out whether or not you're communicating the details of your cultural experience specifically enough, so they became accessible to everybody.

"Early on, I went through my 'isolationist' and 'nationalist' periods where I just worked with other Asians. Ultimately, however, the goal is to communicate between different groups.

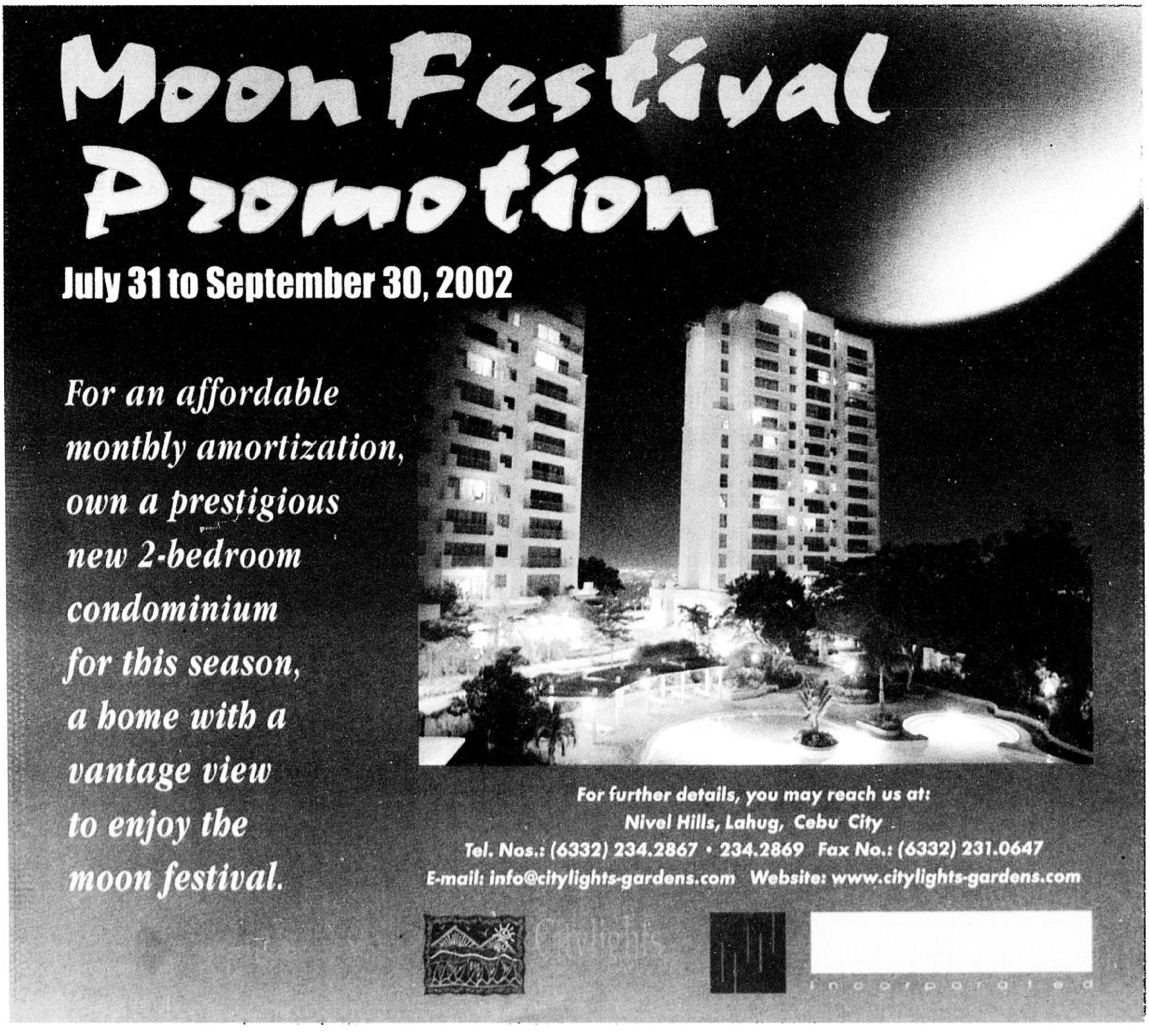
"Besides, race has perhaps lost its usefulness as a construct in this day and age. I believe our cultures are much more *personal* than we have realized so far. We think that skin color means certain things, but that's not necessarily true. A lot of times, those things would be at odds with what their interior actually holds!"

Raymond . . .

. From page H2

acting styles of actors whom he considers role models, like Robert de Niro, Al Pacino, Daniel Day-Lewis and Edward Norton.

Locally, he says he reveres the late Dindo Fernando, has a deep respect for the late Jay Ilagan and admires Christopher de Leon. He loves to experiment and try things he hasn't done. Two years ago, he even studied ballet and went on a US tour with Ballet Philippines!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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT 14 - SEPT 20

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E!
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 To be Announced 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Dragon Ball Z 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster *Kahit Butas ng Karayom Papasukin Ko* 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game2 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office	5:30 Bewitched 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Extreme Close Up *Monica Belluci* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E!True Hollywood Story *Gilligan's Island* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	7:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 Ki 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Startrek IV: The Voyage Home* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Miss Teen USA*	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Travel Time 7:00 Exposed 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Street 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Special 8:00 Rank *Funniest People* 9:00 Revealed W/ Jules Asner *Christina Applegate* 10:00 Movies on E! *Love is a Many Splendored Thing*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	4:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 DAR 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Greatest Fights 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 New York Special 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainmnet Tonight	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Angel 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Uncut *Enrique Iglesias* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	4:00 Value Vision 5:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Daboy en Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainmnet Tonight	6:00 Carita de Angel 8:00 PBA Games 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire 10:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:30 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:30 Movies on E! *La Bamba* 8:30 Latin Grammys 2002 (re-broadcast) 10:30 David Letterman 11:30 Wild On *Spanish Riviera*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 The Working President 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Freestyle All Hits- Part I*	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 PBA Provincial Game 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire 10:00 Bilyaran Na 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 X-Men Evolution 8:30 The Chronicle 9:30 Night Visions 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Uncut *Jennifer Lopez* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Fortaleza*

DIRECTOR Manny Castañeda (left), with Joyce Jimenez (second from left) and Carlo Muñoz (foreground).

Cast and crew of Joyce Jimenez's TV mini-series enjoy their work

By Ronald G. Mangubat

IT'S the sixth shooting day of Sampaguita Television's "Alyana," the latest month-long episode of GMA 7's "Pira-pirasong Pangarap." The shooting takes place in a picturesque ranch in Santo Tomas, Batangas and on this particular morning, everyone on the set, from the stars to the crew, is in a laid back and jovial mood. "*Ang ganda-ganda kasi ng lugar*," says executive producer Jo-Ann Cabalda Bañaga, who also directs the second unit of this production.

60 people

Jo-Ann introduces me to director Manny Castañeda, who is taking charge of the first half of the month for his episode (Jeffrey Jeturian directs the other half), and to the other members of the production team, which is made up of some 60 people. There are 16 vehicles parked at the back of the set including a big air-conditioned OB-van where the director calls the shots during the actual take.

While waiting for the lights and cameras to be set up, Carlo Muñoz and Lander Vera Perez, who play lead roles in this episode, are chatting with each other. Lander, dressed in a rancher's costume, smokes incessantly while Carlo wears a black suit and meticulously fixes his necktie.

Later, Joyce Jimenez, who plays the title role of Alyana, walks in almost unnoticed. She looks fresh as a daisy in her jeans, red shirt and sneakers, and cordially smiles at everyone who greets her.

Direk Manny blocks a scene involving the three lead stars: "O, Carlo, *bababa ka ng* Mercedes Benz, *tatawagin mo si* Joyce. *Lalapit ka*, embrace *kayo* and you'll stay here. *Tapos*, dialogue *na kayo*. Exit *dito*, while *ikaw* Lander, *dyan ka*. The script says you'll look at them and you'll be seething with jealousy. Okay? Let's practice and then, take *na tayo*!"

It takes three runs to perfect the scene. Joyce stammers as she delivers her line on the second take, but is able to correct it. Then, she and Carlo quickly change their costumes for the next sequence, which will take place in a pavilion near the swimming pool.

Make-up artist

Yeta Angeles, the production assistant, rehearses Carlo while a make-up artist retouches his face. "*Si Nanay* Conching 'yan," whispers scriptwriter Agnes de Guzman, who wrote this particular teleplay, "*Matagal na siya sa* Sampaguita Pictures. *Siya ang dating nag-me-*make up *kina* Gloria Romero and Susan Roces."

"Ms Agnes," calls Yeta, "*mahahaba ang linya ni* Joyce. *Kailangang igsian*." "No problem," Agnes replies, and automatically gets her pen to do the line revisions. Leah de Vera, the assistant director, overhears this and exclaims, "*Buti na lang, ang* writer *natin nasa* set!"

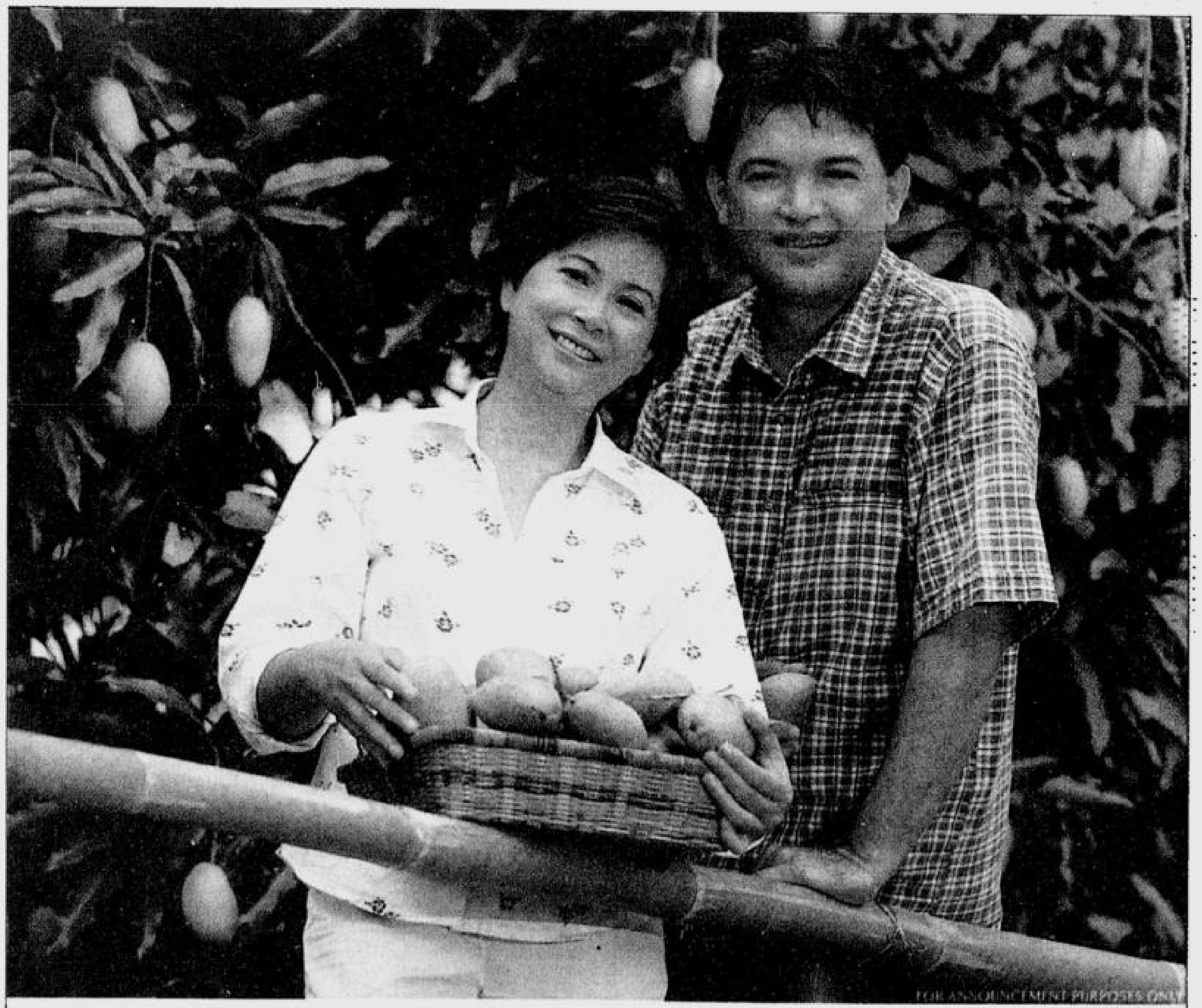
While this is going on, Jo-Ann Bañaga labors with another set of supporting stars like Sharmaine Santiago, and directs another sequence with the second-unit team. She orders a dolly shot and the energetic crew members quickly place the rail tracks on the ground. In 30 minutes, the scene is finished and she calls for a lunch break.

This is not the first time that the stars are performing for "Pira-pirasong Pangarap." "It's a lot of fun," says Carlo. "We're like family. And *direk* Manny allows me to interpret my role."

Camaraderie

Joyce agrees that the camaraderie is fun, but says this is a difficult experience for her because of her difficulty in speaking Tagalog. "It's my first time to do a TV mini-series, so *hindi talaga*

CAST/H7



to find yourself again.

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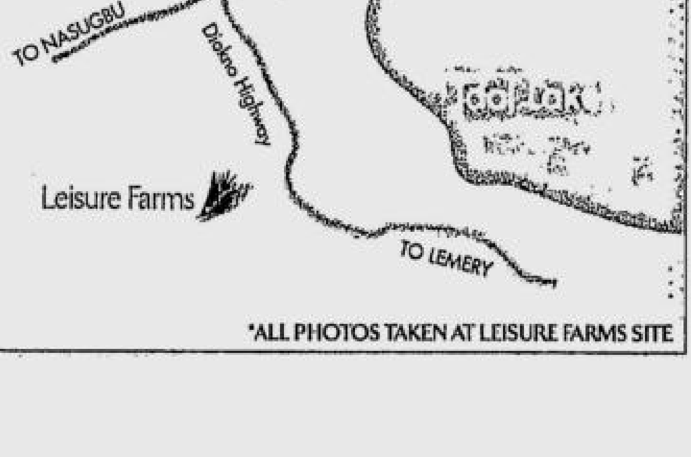
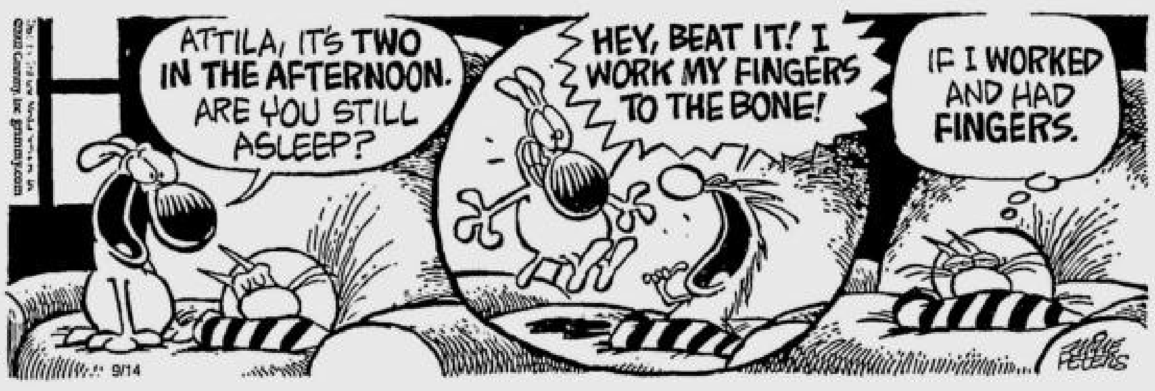


*ALL PHOTOS TAKEN AT LEISURE FARMS SITE

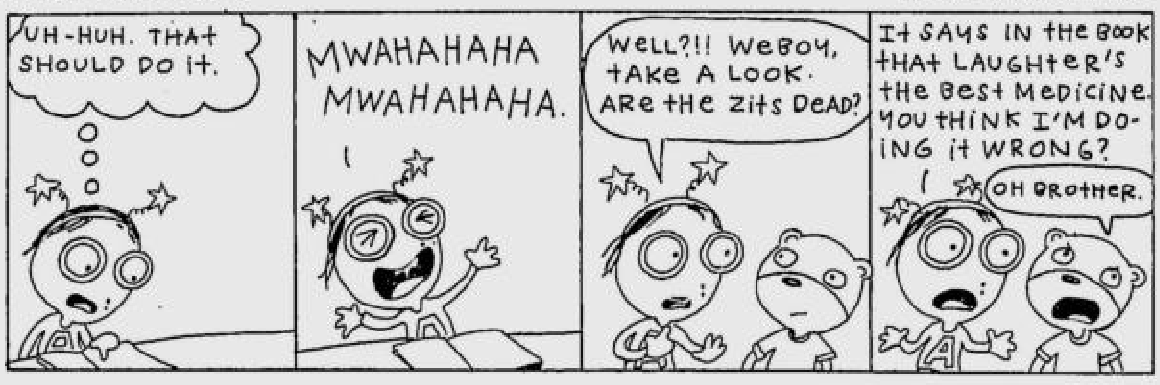
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ATTILA, IT'S TWO IN THE AFTERNOON. ARE YOU STILL ASLEEP?
HEY, BEAT IT! I WORK MY FINGERS TO THE BONE!
IF I WORKED AND HAD FINGERS.
9/14
MIKE PETERS

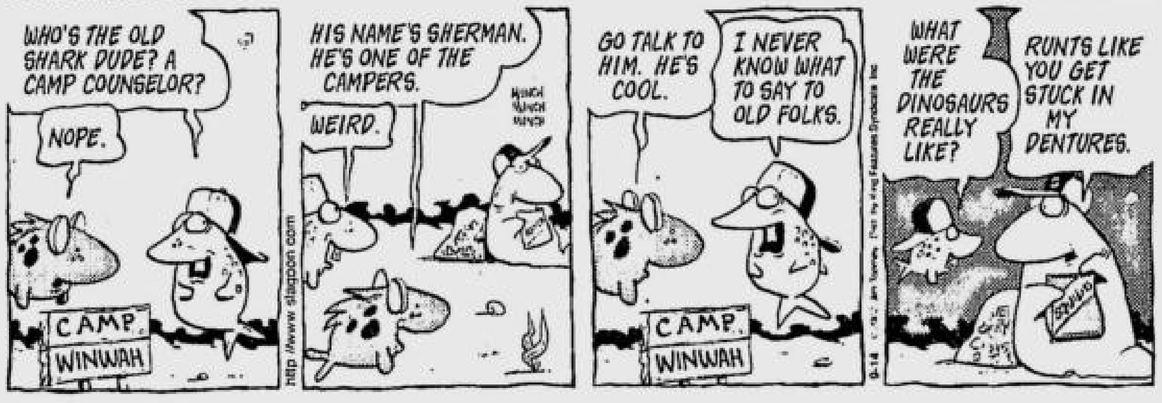
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


UH-HUH. THAT SHOULD DO IT.
MWAHAHAHA MWAHAHAHA.
WELL?!! WEBOY, TAKE A LOOK. ARE THE ZITS DEAD?
IT SAYS IN THE BOOK THAT LAUGHTER'S THE BEST MEDICINE. YOU THINK I'M DOING IT WRONG?
OH BROTHER.

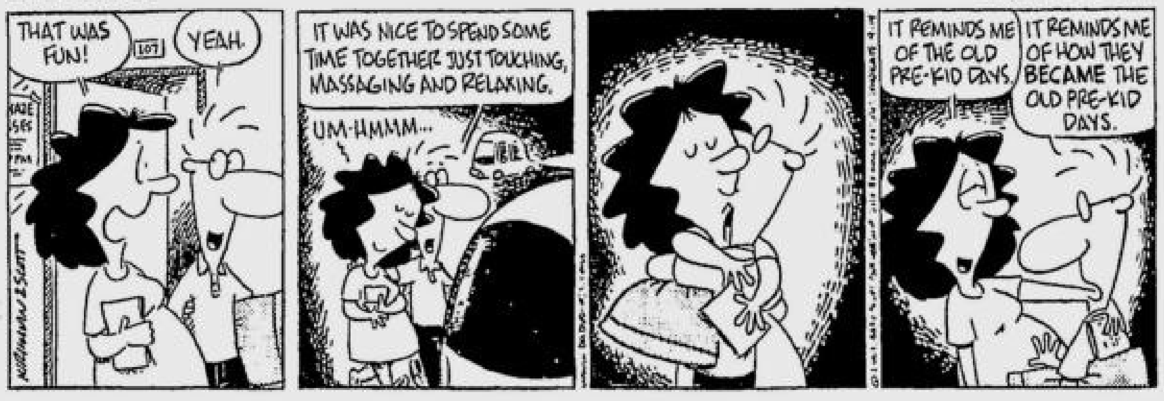
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHO'S THE OLD SHARK DUDE? A CAMP COUNSELOR?
NOPE.
CAMP WINWAH
HIS NAME'S SHERMAN. HE'S ONE OF THE CAMPERS.
WEIRD.
GO TALK TO HIM. HE'S COOL.
I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO OLD FOLKS.
WHAT WERE THE DINOSAURS REALLY LIKE?
RUNTS LIKE YOU GET STUCK IN MY DENTURES.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT WAS FUN!
YEAH.
IT WAS NICE TO SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER JUST TOUCHING, MASSAGING AND RELAXING.
UM-HMMM...
IT REMINDS ME OF THE OLD PRE-KID DAYS.
IT REMINDS ME OF HOW THEY BECAME THE OLD PRE-KID DAYS.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Faith Ford, Mary Frances Crosby, Sam Neill, Joe Penny

Happy Birthday: Problems might occur if you are too intent on doing everything yourself. It will be important to nurture what you've already got going for yourself before taking on other people's work or problems. This is not the year to move forward, but instead the year to protect what you've already got. Your numbers are 6, 14, 27, 29, 33, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Short jaunts to visit with friends will be inspiring and informative. Kick back with people you enjoy. Be sure to make your own decisions today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Financial limitations may set in today if you have overspent. An older relative may need your help or be a burden. Do what you can to sort out his or her problem, but not at the cost of neglecting your own responsibilities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This can be an exciting or tumultuous day depending on how you handle yourself emotionally. Turn your thoughts to passion and affection instead of anger and discord. You may have your suspicions but unless you have the facts, do not accuse anyone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you want to put in overtime or do a little extra work, today is the perfect day. You may meet someone interesting through a work-related event. Attend an industry function.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Satisfy your physical needs by getting involved in a sports activity. Don't hold back if you have a chance to be in the limelight. You'll definitely leave a lasting impression.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Tread carefully when dealing with loved ones. You are not likely to please others today. Honesty will be important, especially when dealing with emotional issues.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be in a playful mood and should plan some sort of activity with friends. The time is right to communicate about your feelings, intentions and future. You can expect to hear some interesting news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Money will be your prime concern. Put your efforts into financial schemes. Keep your personal matters to yourself. Things may change quite rapidly concerning someone you are close to.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Try not to exaggerate or jump to conclusions. You will be emotional and you might not see things the way they really are. It may be your fault that the people around you are upset. Take a second look at your reason for doing things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone you thought you could trust is probably out to get you. Don't let your private thoughts or secrets be revealed. Don't be too eager to follow someone else's beliefs. Trust in yourself.

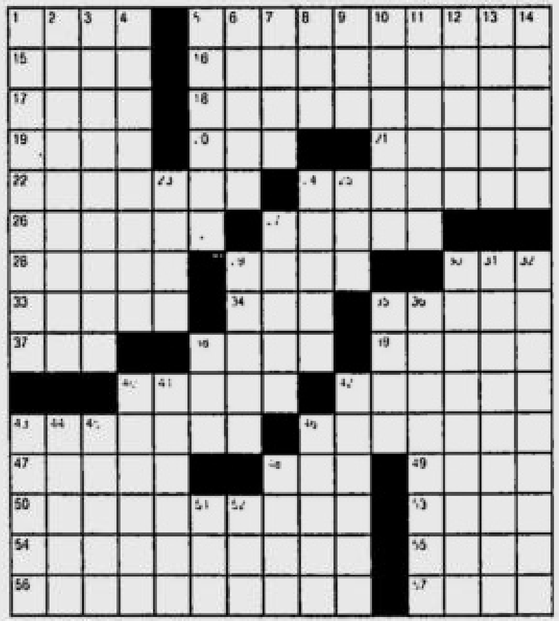
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will want to get involved in humanitarian events. Take a leadership position and you will make a difference. Influential people will note your generosity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone may really get to you today. Hurt feelings often lead to the wrong decision. Exercise plus a little pampering will help you release tension.

Birthday Baby: You will be entertaining and engaging in the way you handle life's situations, and many will rely on you for help and advice. Incompetence will cause you to lose patience.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

9/14/02

ACROSS
1 Pond coating
5 Fast drivers
15 Sushi choice
16 Film, music, etc. combined
17 Gets off track
18 State of apprehension
19 Holiday preludes
20 605
21 Large scholarly books
22 Capital of North Carolina
24 Absolute
26 July 26th honoree
27 Twosomes
28 Sound dampener
29 Part of FDIC
30 Mil. watchdog grp.
33 Rocky ridge
34 They: Fr.
35 Luster
37 Composer Rorem
38 Out of work
39 Purify
40 Market figures
42 Hindu mystic writings
43 Finger pointer
46 More impetuous
47 Sinatra song, "__ Life"
48 Our star
49 Comic Laurel
50 Chief constituent of hardened carbon tool steels
53 Creative inspiration
54 Capillary connections
55 Lemon drinks
56 Football lineman
57 Cozy home

DOWN
1 Guy at the helm
2 Bent state
3 Incidental
4 "Thais" composer
5 Ink mark
6 Mixed drink
7 Hgt.
8 Schedule info
9 Roman Pluto
10 One inflicting heavy blows
11 Mortise mates
12 Botanical swelling
13 Stairway piece
14 Impudent
23 With reference to
24 Analyze syntactically
25 Rim
27 Straw votes
29 Apple juice
30 Freedom from doubt
31 Removes lubrication
32 Sincerely
35 Hot tubs
36 Master of foxhounds
38 Land in the Seine?
40 Ritual suicide of Hinduism
41 Put forward
42 "Honor Thy Father" author
43 Universal soul of Hinduism
44 "Chico and the Man" co-star
45 Golfers' vehicles
46 Monopoly item
48 Smooth comparative
51 Actress Long
52 Org.

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	B	B	A		C	R	E	A	M		S	C	U	M
C	L	A	N		H	A	L	V	E		U	R	S	A
H	A	R	D	B	O	I	L	E	D		N	E	E	R
E	B	B		N	I	L		R	U	N	N	E	R	S
			T	A	R		A	S	S	A	Y			
P	R	O	H	I	B	I	T		A	S	S	I	S	T
L	A	H	R		O	S	H	A		T	I	L	E	R
A	L	A	E		Y	I	E	L	D		D	I	N	E
Y	P	R	E	S		S	I	T	E		E	A	S	E
S	H	A	M	U	S		S	E	C	L	U	D	E	D
			I	B	E	A	M		E	A	P			
C	O	U	N	S	E	L		I	D	I		R	O	T
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T	O	P	E		T	W	E	E	T		L	E	S	S

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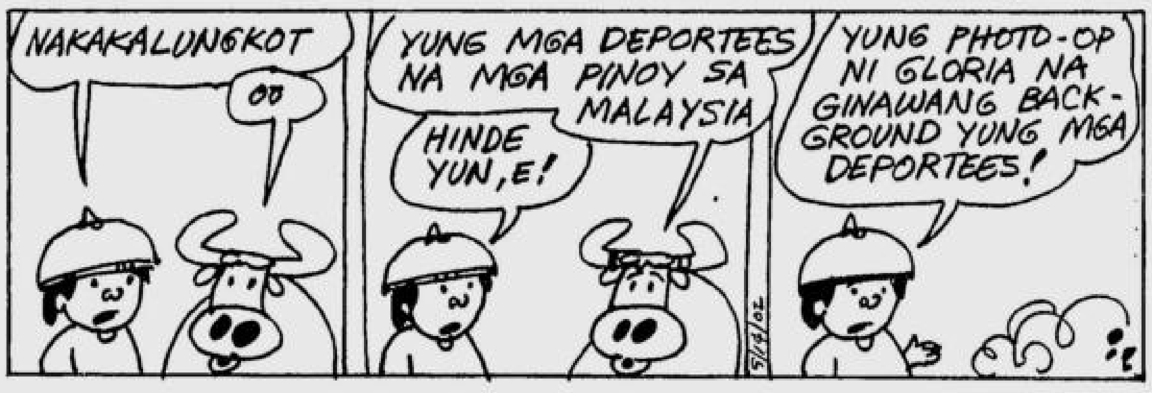
9/14/02

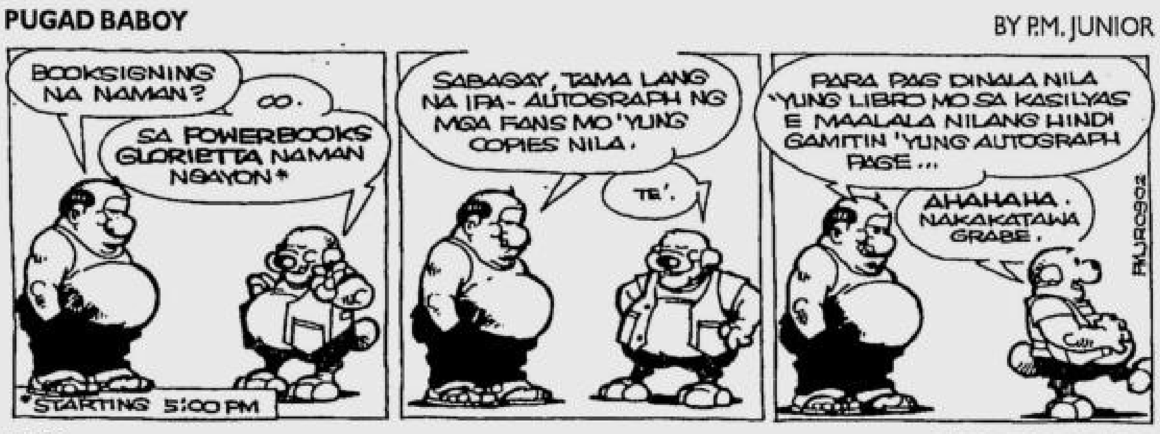
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAKAKALUNGKOT
OO
YUNG MGA DEPORTEES NA MGA PINOY SA MALAYSIA
HINDE YUN, E!
YUNG PHOTO-OP NI GLORIA NA GINAWANG BACK-GROUND YUNG MGA DEPORTEES!
9/14/02

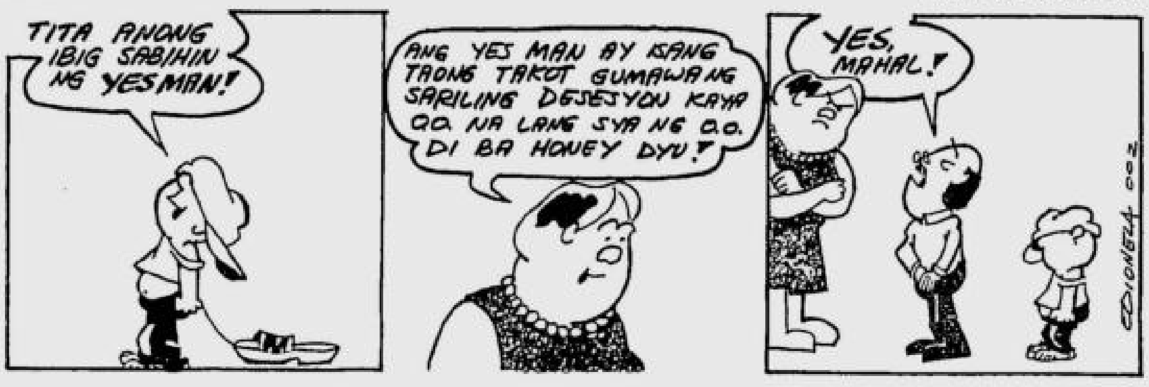
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BOOKSIGNING NA NAMAN?
OO.
SA POWERBOOKS GLORIETTA NAMAN NGAYON*
*STARTING 5:00 PM
SABAGAY, TAMA LANG NA IPA-AUTOGRAPH NG MGA FANS MO 'YUNG COPIES NILA.
TE'.
PARA PAG DINALA NILA 'YUNG LIBRO MO SA KASILYAS E MAALALA NILANG HINDI GAMITIN 'YUNG AUTOGRAPH PAGE...
AHAHAHA. NAKAKATAWA GRABE.
PJURO902

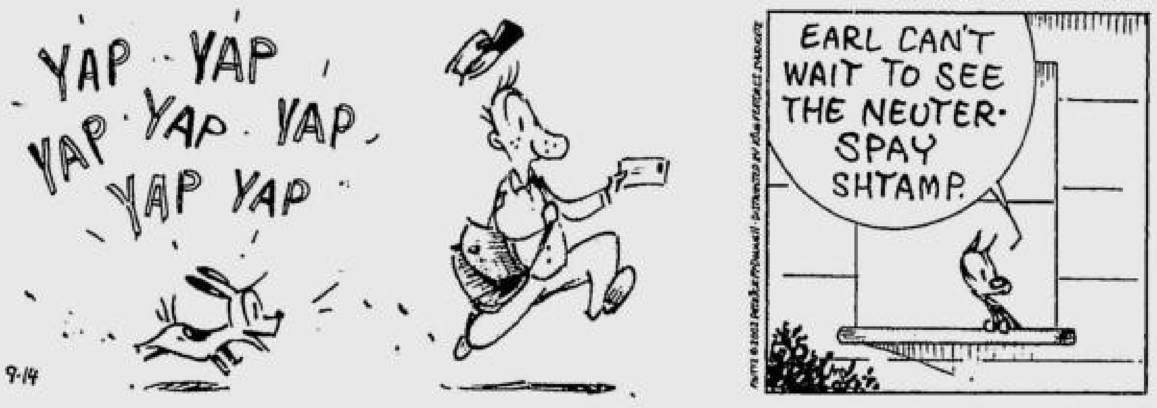
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


TITA ANONG IBIG SABIHIN NG YESMAN!
ANG YES MAN AY ISANG TAONG TAKOT GUMAWA NG SARILING DESESYON KAYA OO NA LANG SYA NG O.O. DI BA HONEY DYU?
YES, MAHAL!
DIONELA 002

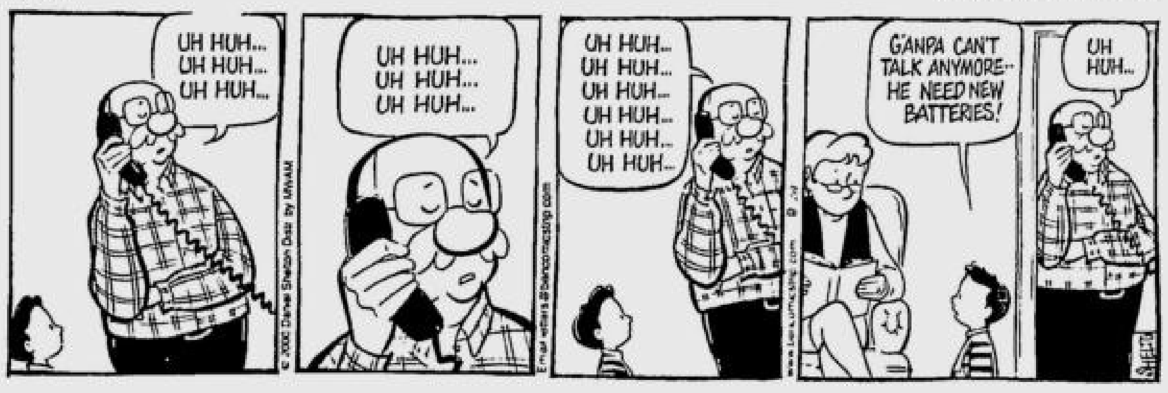
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YAP YAP YAP YAP YAP YAP YAP
9-14
EARL CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE NEUTER-SPAY SHTAMP.

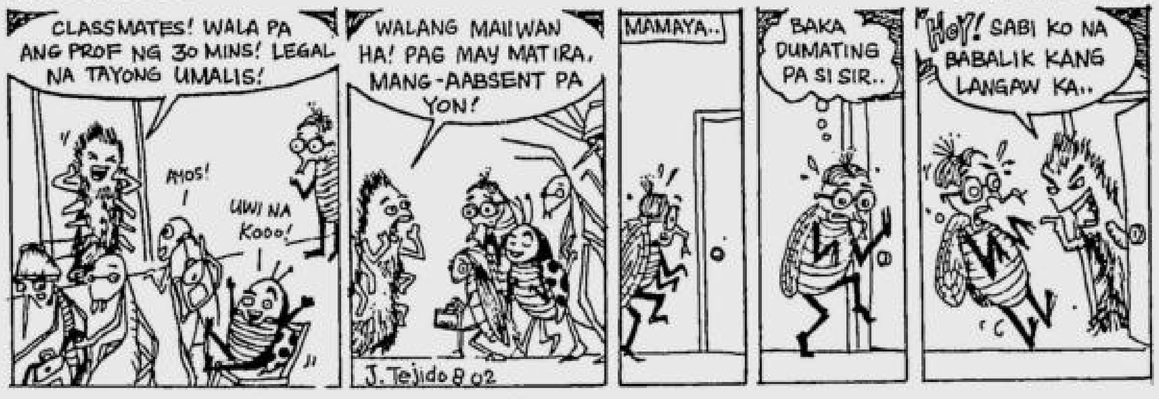
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


UH HUH... UH HUH... UH HUH...
UH HUH... UH HUH... UH HUH...
UH HUH... UH HUH... UH HUH... UH HUH... UH HUH... UH HUH...
G'ANPA CAN'T TALK ANYMORE-- HE NEED NEW BATTERIES!
UH HUH...

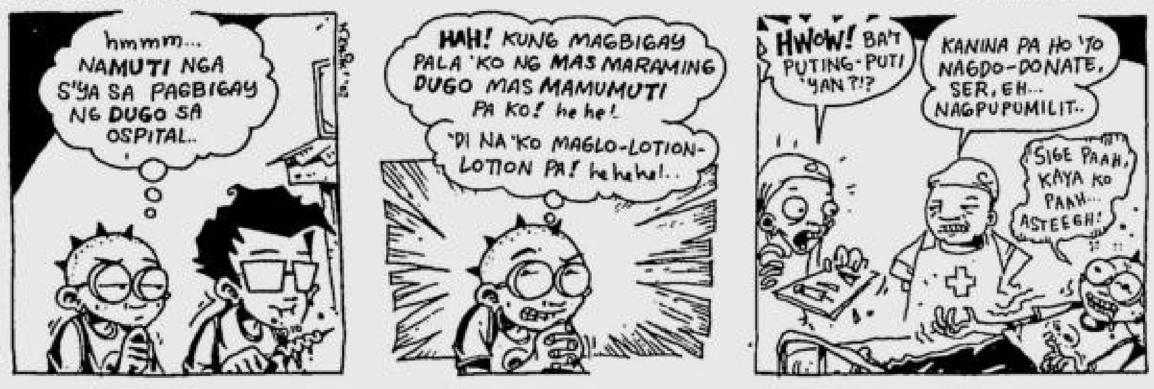
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


CLASSMATES! WALA PA ANG PROF NG 30 MINS! LEGAL NA TAYONG UMALIS!
AYOS!
UWI NA KOOO!
WALANG MAIIWAN HA! PAG MAY MATIRA, MANG-AABSENT PA YON!
J. Tejido 8 02
MAMAYA..
BAKA DUMATING PA SI SIR..
HOY! SABI KO NA BABALIK KANG LANGAW KA..

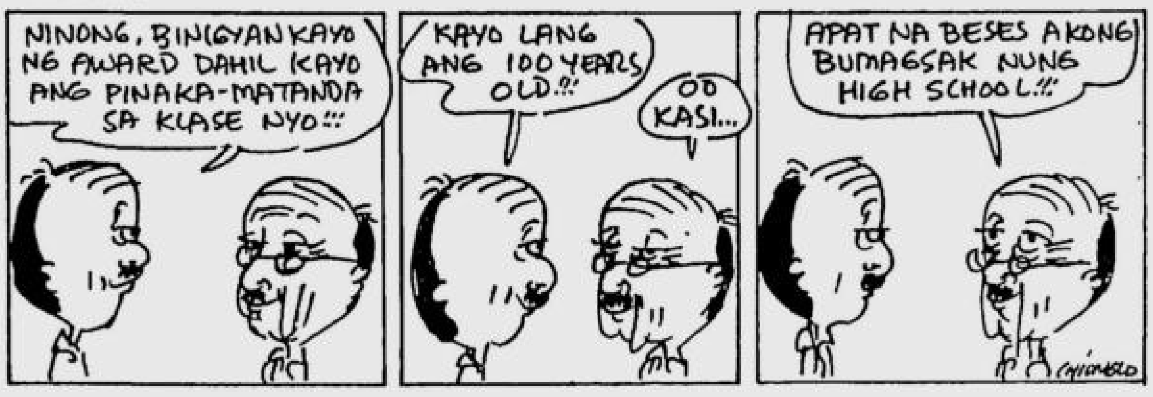
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hmmm... NAMUTI NGA S'YA SA PAGBIGAY NG DUGO SA OSPITAL..
HAH! KUNG MAGBIGAY PALA 'KO NG MAS MARAMING DUGO MAS MAMUMUTI PA KO! he he!
'DI NA 'KO MAGLO-LOTION-LOTION PA! hehehe!..
HWOW! BA'T PUTING-PUTI 'YAN?!?
KANINA PA HO 'TO NAGDO-DONATE, SER, EH... NAGPUPUMILIT..
SIGE PAAH, KAYA KO PAAH... ASTEEGH!

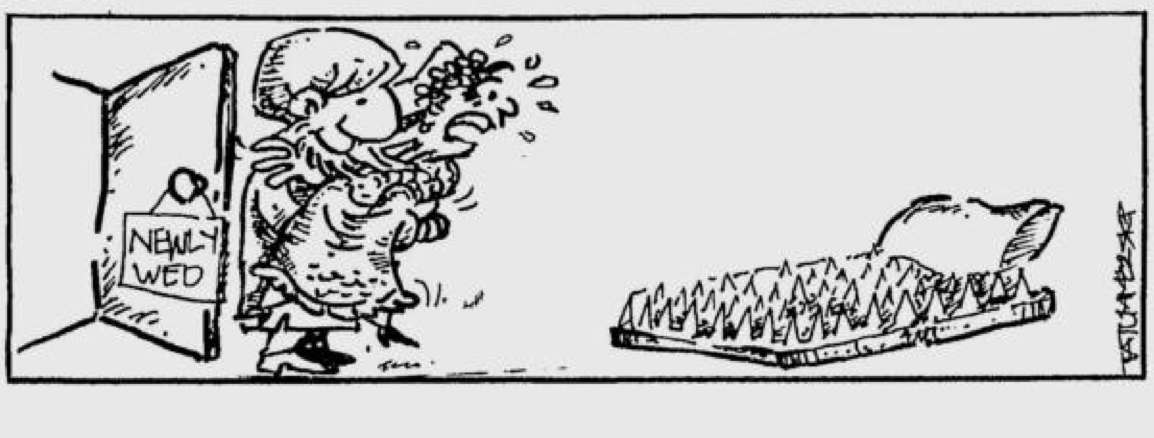
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NINONG, BINIGYAN KAYO NG AWARD DAHIL KAYO ANG PINAKA-MATANDA SA KLASE NYO!!!
KAYO LANG ANG 100 YEARS OLD.!!
OO KASI...
APAT NA BESES AKONG BUMAGSAK NUNG HIGH SCHOOL!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Cast . . .

From page H5

ako sanay. Pinakamahirap sa akin yung dialogue, but the staff is very supportive, so it lessens my difficulty!"

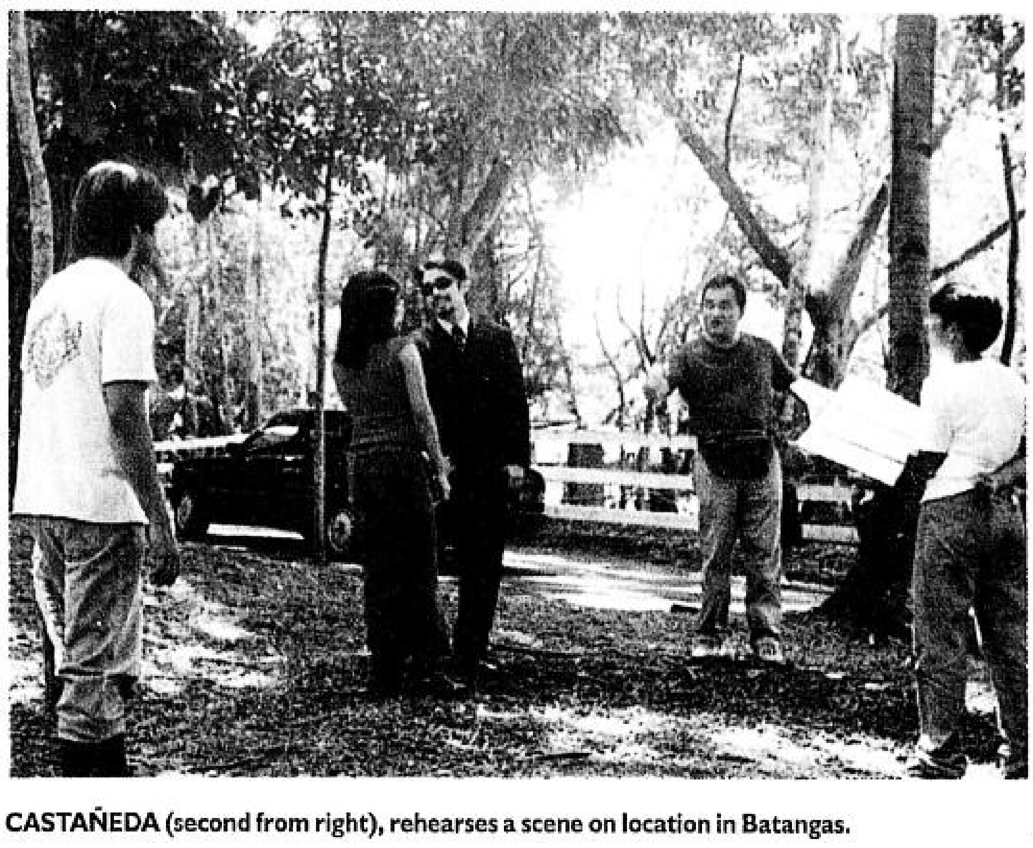
"*Ang* fun part *dito, yung sama-sama kayo*," interjects Lander. "*Kanya-kanyang* role *kami*, like I portray this mean guy *na inggit na inggit kay* Carlo. *Ang medyo mahirap lang 'yung umaga na e nag-e-*emote *ka pa*. But that's all part of the job. Enjoy *kami talaga at nakaka-*miss *kapag tapos na ang* shooting."

After lunch, the actors change costumes again and prepare for the next sequence, which will take place near the ranch's stable.

"*Naku, kailangan ko pala silang i-*remind *na huwag i-re-*rehearse *ang kabayo*," says Jo-Ann. "I've learned that from FPJ! *Nai-i-*stress *kasi ang kabayo at baka di na 'yon makatakbo!*"

Direk Manny works fast as he proceeds to shoot the next sequence. It shows an angry and mean Lander as he shouts, kicks and curses a farm laborer. Joy sees this and show her disgust. "Cut!" yells the assistant director, "Change setting *tayo!*"

For people taping a mini-series on location, the work is fun—but it's never done!



CASTAÑEDA (second from right), rehearses a scene on location in Batangas.

In search . .

•From page H4

and men to provide her emotional security. She was fired from her comeback film and slowly deteriorated physically and emotionally.

As a result of her decadent life, she tragically passed away before she was 40 years old. The world was shocked. The whys and wherefores naturally arose, but no clear answers were given. Hers was a life complicated by dreams, loves and many uncertainties.

Her controversial life included a love affair with and marriage to athletic icon and baseball great Joe DiMaggio. She also had affairs with colorful Frank Sinatra and suave French actor Yves Montand, as well as with libidinous politicians like the Kennedy brothers, John and Bob. She married and complicated the staid life of literary titan Arthur Miller. The cause of her death remains controversial.

All these thoughts of Marilyn went through my mind as Mac tried to find the memorial park. I finally got the exact directions from a Hispanic in charge of a parking lot. After a couple of turns around the Wilshire ave. area, we found 1281 North Glendon. It was indeed in the Wilshire section of Los Angeles, except that the little memorial park was sandwiched between two high rises and, therefore difficult to find.

(To be concluded)

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Eversaver Taiwan Garlic	[illegible]	P 11.50/per 500g
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Music can be the best medicine

By Ametta Suarez Taguchi

IN Cagayan de Oro City, a new choir gets frequently invited to perform in special events. Many Cagayanons regard the Kagay-an Ladies' Chamber Choir and the New Male Madrigals as the singing groups to call on to heighten the solemnity of masses, weddings and funerals, or to provide light entertainment during conventions, parties and fiestas.

Grand Caprice, Minketkai

CHOIRMASTER. Ana de la Fuente (left) and some Kagay-an choir members.

Comments

What makes this choir stand out? Some comments:

"The singers sound like one voice."

"They sing difficult pieces."

"Your hair stands on end—you feel like crying."

"They sound like recording artists."

"There's something different about their way of singing."

Behind the growing popularity of the group are Delsa Mortola and Ana de la Fuente, two close friends who organized it in 2000 "out of a doctor's prescription." They and other friends were suffering from recurring headache and joint pains which conventional medicine could not heal. So they consulted a doctor of alternative medicine, Dr. Paulita Baclig, who prescribed herbal medication, massage and acupuncture to relieve the tension that was causing their discomfort. Then on top of her prescription pad, she added in capital letters, SINGING.

Founding members

The prescription worked and the Kagay-an Ladies' Chamber Choir and the New Male Madrigals (tel. no. 722263) was born, with those who were successfully treated by Dr. Baclig as founding members. Delsa is the chief mover and "inspiration" of the organization. Her spacious house serves as its rehearsal venue and office.

What makes the choir's singing "different" is Ana, the choirmaster, a graduate of music and a school teacher who is as determined as Delsa to achieve the organization's mission: excellence in choral singing.

Under Ana's baton, rehearsals are strictly business. She does not accede to the tendency of some artists to use rehearsal time as an excuse to get together with friends and have fun.

One choir member compares rehearsals to an athletic exercise: you need to bring an extra T-shirt because vocalization alone can make you sweat like a runner.

Techniques

Whether the song being practiced is the difficult "Prayer of St. Francis" or the relatively easy "Ikaw" and "Let It Be," Ana does not downgrade the latest techniques of choral singing which Arwin Tan of the Philippine Madrigal Singers imparted in a workshop he conducted exclusively for the Cagayan choir. "The hardest thing to do is sing with a singing voice, not with a talking voice," Delsa disclosed in an interview.

Asked to explain, she continued, "A singing voice is done in falsetto, manipulated so that the tonal quality is above the natural compass of the voice. It is not the same as just allowing your beautiful voice to come out naturally, effortlessly as you do in a talking voice. One has to hear it to understand its difference from a talking voice."

Mastering the singing voice took the choir eight months. Ana declared the group was ready to perform before an audience only after one year of rigorous training.

What else makes the choir outstanding? "Humility," Ana answered. No matter how great your voice may be, it must blend with the group's and not be identifiable. This lesson is elementary.

Another contentious issue is attendance at rehearsals. "We practice three times a week. When as performance is booked, we practice daily," Delsa said. A member who fails to attend rehearsals is not allowed to perform, because his unpreparedness could ruin a show.

Discipline

As a result of the rigid discipline, singers keep dropping out, so now there are only 18 members—but what a tightly linked, committed circle they've formed! Identified by their black skirt and white kimona uniform (same color combination for the men), the singers are always at "performance level," ready to entertain an audience within a week's notice. The Philippine Madrigal Singers paid the Cagayan choir the highest compliment when it invited the group to join them in a local performance recently.

"Do you get paid?" we asked. Laughter. Delsa, who runs an organic vegetable farm that caters mainly to cancer patients, answered: "We get more and more invitations, but the price is not set." Ana clarified, "Actually, we still don't know how to price ourselves. We just love to sing." And become healthier as a bonus, if we may add!

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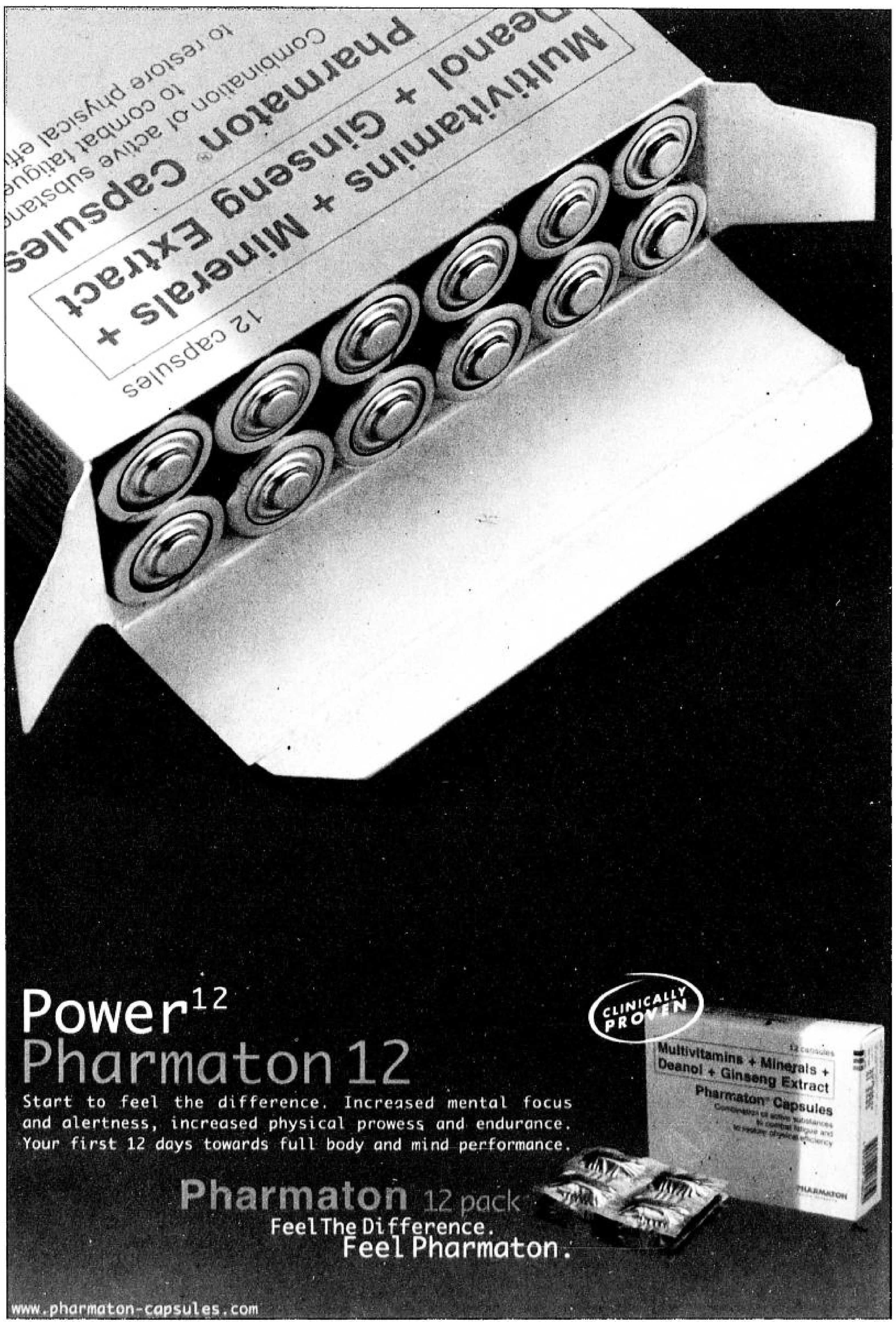

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Truth Be Told

A frank documentary tells us we have to work harder to make the world a better place for kids

TEN years ago, filmaker Bruno Sorrentino documented the lives of eight new born children. The ocassion was the 2002 Earth Summit, a gathering of world leaders to agree on new rules to make life better on planet Earth. This year, Sorrentino returns to visit the seven surviving children to see if their lives have indeed become better because of the Summit. His film, "Children of Rio" has been airing on the cable channel BBC and tells us we all need to work harder to make things better.

NOW THAT WE'RE 10. Justin Geyer, 10, stands in front of his parents' farm in South Africa. Justin is featured in a film about the lives of children from around the world born in 1992, the year world leaders met in Brazil and pledged to make the planet a better place to live. The film, "Children of Rio," has been shown on the BBC channel.

REUTERS

An Agreement

The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro brought together 108 heads of state or government, plus 64 officials from almost all the countries in the world.

These world leaders all agreed that people are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. They wanted to erase poverty and protect the environment. Everyone agreed to use resources responsibly to meet the needs of the present and future generations.

Bad News

But within three months of the Earth Summit, one of the original babies for Sorrentino's documentary died without a name.

Her parents refused to name her until she was 12 months old, an indicator of the high infant mortality rate in the Amazon rainforests of Valenzuela where she was born.

Panjy's story

Panjarvanam from India is more fortunate. After all she's reached her 10th birthday and so far she still gets to study in school.

"I want to study... become a doctor and treat people free of charge," Panjy dreams.

Her paralyzed grandfather supports that dream. "If I had an education, my life might have been different. But if you study hard then with God's help, you may become a doctor," he tells his granddaughter.

Panjy's mother however feels differently. "Panjarvanam wants to stay on at school," she says, "but that's going to make things difficult for us. So I want her to leave."

Everyone in her family works at the fireworks factory, the same one where her father got chemical poisoning and died. Panjy's eldest brother is also sick from chemical poisoning and stays at home. The second brother has left school to work at the factory. Panjy's sister married at 15 and only left the factory to give birth to her first child. The husband is also a fireworks maker. If Panjy leaves school, a similar fate awaits her.

Truth/ p. 2

Truth...

(from page 1)

Erdo's Education

In Kenya, Erdo's education is also uncertain. Erdo is one of 16 brothers and sisters, a son of his father's second wife Esther.

Erdo's family is a nomadic cattle-raising tribe. It's not a very stable life because the threat of a raid hangs in the air. The only way they get to keep their herd is with guns and ammo. It's particularly dangerous during times of drought. Guns are needed to keep desperate and hungry raiders away. It's no wonder that Erdo's father wants him to stop studying and help raise and protect their cattle instead.

Erdo's mother disagrees. In 1998, she separated from her husband to settle down, raise crops and send her son to school.

In Sorrentino's sixth visit to the family she relates, "Before the recent rains we had three years of drought. That's why I planted as much as I could. I feel as if God is pleased with us and gave us a good harvest. For once I can plan. My only goal now is to work so I can send Erdo to school."

But her plans turn awry. Mother Esther loses her entire savings, the money supposed to fund Erdo's education, in an investment scheme by a local politician.

Rosa Maria was born near Rio de Janeiro in the country's largest *favela* or shanty town, with a population of 200,000 people.

"They need to put a stop to the shooting, both by the police and by the criminals," Rosa says of their crime-ridden community.

Rosa Maria's family was abandoned by her father when she was born. Now a DJ friend tries to help out. He built a small playground for the kids.

"I'm fighting for Rosa Maria and the other children to have a more secure future and be happy," said Rosa Maria's DJ friend. "A lot of people are prejudiced against people who live in favelas. They say the people here are worthless."

Justin's Window

Discrimination is nowhere more stark than in Africa. Though apartheid may have officially ended eight years ago, grenade screens are installed on Justin's bedroom window and his family still keeps guns and dogs to deter attackers. There is still danger that some disenfranchised black people will attack their dairy farm.

Justin is a junior fourth-grader at the Queen's College, a school desegregated for the first time in decades. "Africa is very beautiful," he says. If he were president, Justin says he would "make a safer country that's better for kids and encourage peace with other countries." His role model is Nelson Mandela. "He's a peacemaker and he brought our nation together."

Visumzi's Vision

In contrast, Visumzi is a black child in South Africa. His physical location might be similar to Justin's but that is where the similarity ends. Visumzi's home got electricity only in 1995. He wishes they had running water too.

Truth/ p. 10

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World Scope

London, England
Tokyo, Japan
Washington, D.C., USA
Bombay, India

Onam Festival

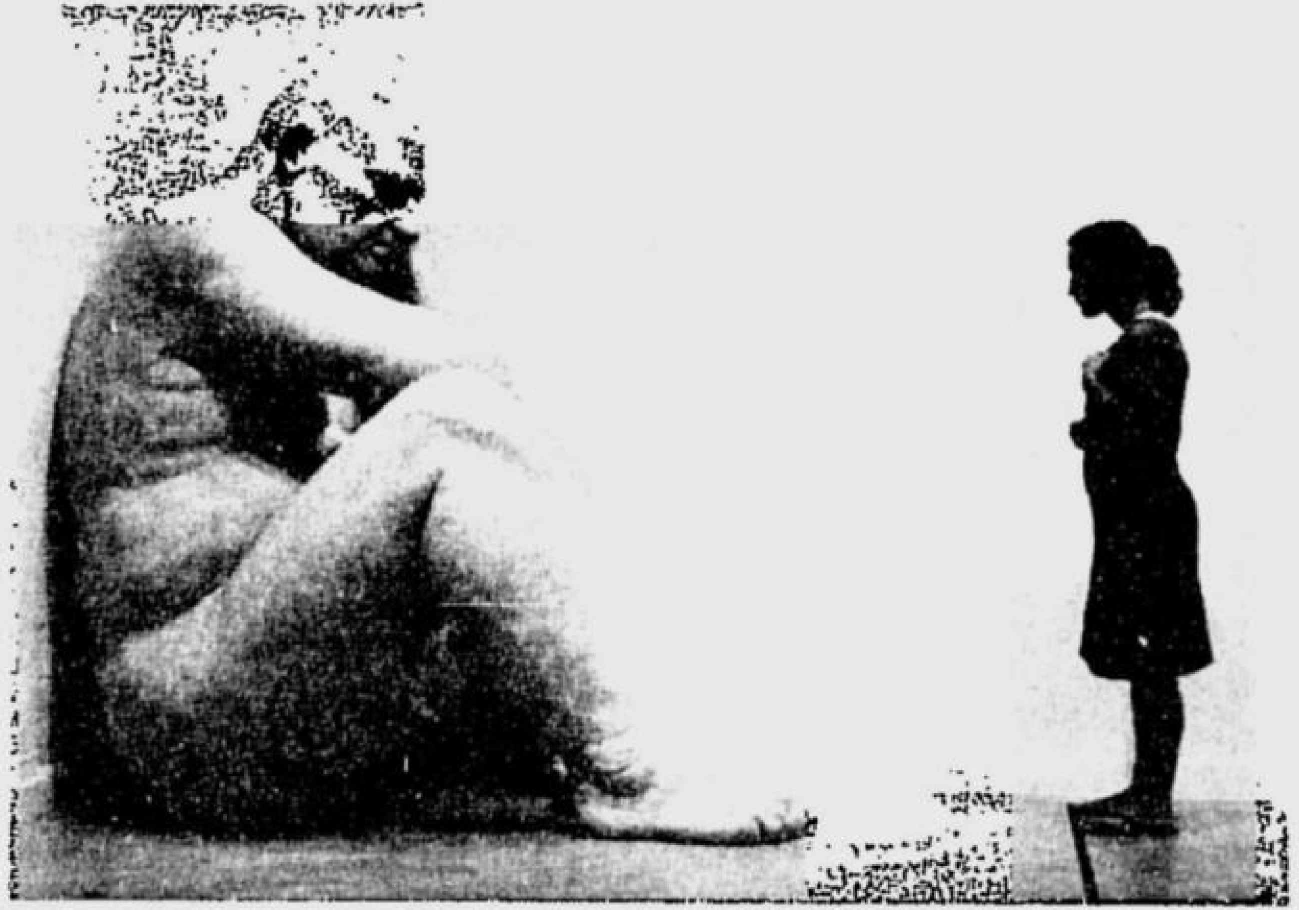
MANJU, Dhannya, and Dhivya create a decoration with flower petals at the entrance of their home in preparation for the "Onam" festival in central Bombay on Aug. 19. The festival is celebrated mainly in the south Indian state of Kerala to welcome the yearly return of the legendary King Mahabali. *AFP*

Well-balanced Kitty

"HISS, The things I have to do to get some chow!" this cat seems to be thinking as he balances on the hand of Russian cat theater leader Yuri Kuklachev. Thirty-seven cats belonging to the Moscow-based Kuklachev Cat Theatre perform various tricks in the unusual show, which is in Japan for the third successive year. *Reuters*

Kids on Parade

SHOSHANNA Taylor,9, from Hackney, London, gets into the swing of the Notting Hill Carnival, in central London. *AP*



Shhh! Giant sleeping

WOULD you stand that close to him? This untitled sculpture by artist Ron Mueck is one of four hyper-realistic figurative sculptures made of pigmented polyester resin on fiberglass. The sculptures, either smaller or larger than life, are on display at the Smithsonian Institution's Hirshorn Museum in Washington D.C. until Oct. 27. *AFP*

Workshops

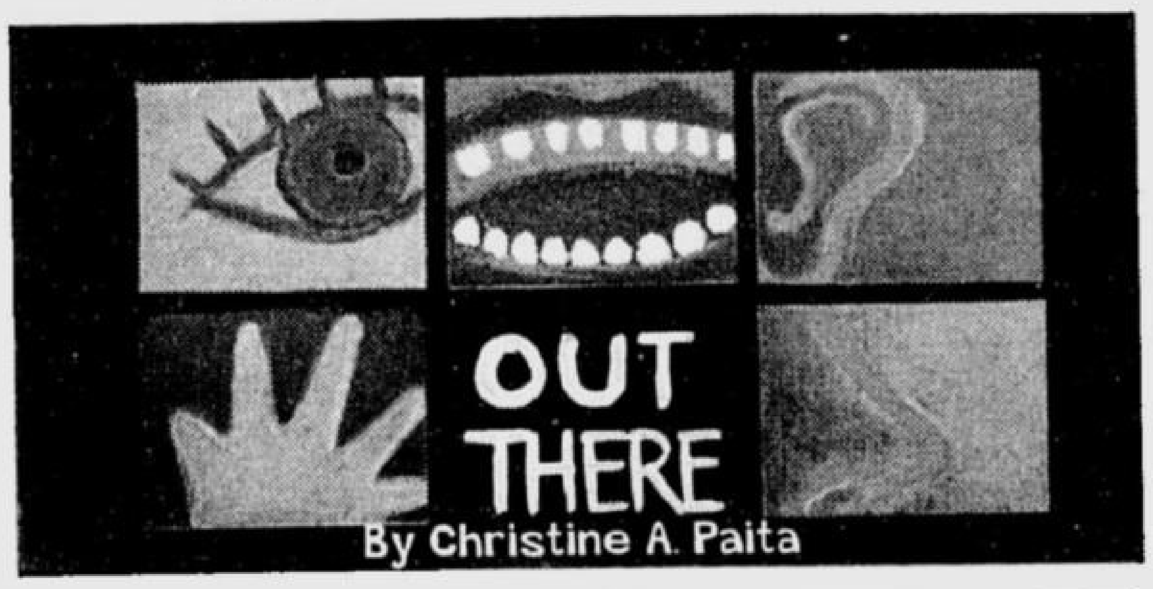
JOLLIBEE FUN. Learn arts and crafts, dancing, and singing in the Jollibee Kids Workshop this September and October. Check out the following activities for kids ages 12 and below:

- Sept. 21—Singing Star Search, Jollibee Grand Central; Magic Balloon Workshop, Jollibee Royal Family Mall
- Sept. 28—Acting and Jazz Dancing, Jollibee Kalookan-LRT; Jollibee Ceramic Painting, Jollibee Grand Central; Friendship Band Craft, Jollibee Sta. Lucia Phase 1; Character Picture Frame Craft, Jollibee Sta. Lucia East Grandmall
- Oct. 5—Friendship Braid Craft, Jollibee Kalookan-LRT; Animal Hand Puppet Making, Jollibee Grand Central; Juggler Mobile Craft, Jollibee Sta. Lucia East Grandmall

Join JKW Club and you will receive a free monthly issue of the JKW Digest. For more info, please call 363-4690 or 363-7659 and look for Ghem, Ana or Joy; or email eserrano@info.com.ph

Contest

ABKD POSTER-MAKING. CDRC (Citizens' Disaster Response Center) wants to remind all kids who are joining its annual poster-making contest that the deadline for the submission of entries is on Sept. 16, Monday. The "Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata" contest is divided into Category A, for kids ages 7-9, and Category B, for kids ages 10-12. For more info and contest brochures, call 924-0386 or 929-9822 or email rpidcdrc@i-manila.com.ph.



By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Exhibits

"MOVING" POSTERS. Catch Museo Pambata's travelling anti-smoking exhibit at the Club Malarayat Children's Country Club in Lipa City until Sept. 23. The "Iba't Ibang Kamay, Iisang Buhay...Filipino!," an exhibit featuring traditional arts and crafts, will be in SM Iloilo City, until Oct. 1. For more info, please call 523-1797, or email pr-prog@museo pambata.org.

Cable Picks

BIG CATS. Tune in to National Geographic Channel and take a peek at "Nat Geo Max: Big Cats—Alien Big Cats" on Monday, Sept. 30 at 9 p.m. Don't miss this feline spectacle!

SCOOBY DOO. Join Velma of the Scooby Doo gang as she investigates the case of the missing crown jewels and uncovers a ghoulish secret! Find out what it is in "The Night Ghoul of the Wonderworld," on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 6:30 p.m. on Cartoon Network.

Play

HUGO CLASSIC. Dramatis Personae Children's Theatre brings to life on stage Victor Hugo's classic tale, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." Catch it on Aug. 17, Saturday, at 7 p.m. at the Southville International School Gym in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. For inquiries and reservations, please contact Dramatis Personae at 721-3178, 722-4205, 0918-6507617, or 0919-4187696 (Lito or Rod). Email dramatis_personae@email.com or log on to www.softrigger.com/dp.

Events

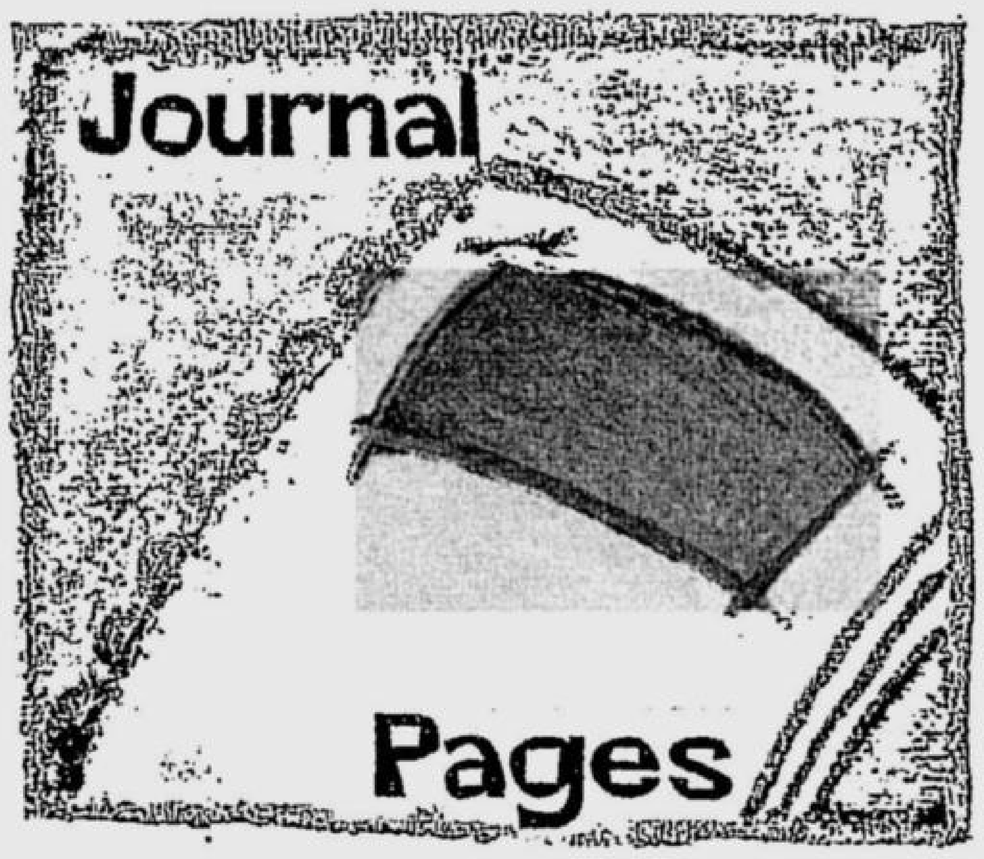
GARFIELD MANIA. Go witty, wild and wacky with Jim Davis' popular cartoon cat Garfield. Enjoy an afternoon of trivia games, eating contests, treasure hunts, relay games, face and T-shirt painting, photo op, and many more. Party with Garfield on Sept. 15 at SM Southmall, Las Piñas City; Sept. 22 at SM North Edsa, Quezon City; and Sept. 28 at SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

SOMETHING FOR YOUR FOLKS. Parents are invited to listen and participate in the following parenting talks to be conducted by the Early Learning Center: Sept. 19— "Intuition in Children and Removing Fear" by Marianne de Leon, Oct. 17— "How to develop Spontaneity and Creative Expression" by Regina Lim, Nov. 21— "Children or Problem Parents?" by Raffy Relosa, Dec. 5— "Little Chefs, Children in the Culinary World" by Mia Manuel, Jan. 23, 2003— "Reframing Disciplne" by Maricar de Ocampo, Feb. 20, 2003— "Art Attack!" by Nina Yuson, and March 6, 2003— "Your Child, Information and the Net" by Ricky Lim. All sessions will be held on Thursdays, from 5-7 p.m., at the Early Learning Center, 27 Tampingco St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. For information and reservation, please call Marisa or Olga at 817-7274 or 817-4899.

WHAT'S UP AT MUSEO PAMBATA. Museo Pambata celebrates International Literacy Month this September. On Thursdays at 10 a.m., join Kuya Guiller as he teaches kids how to create animal designs out of colorful clay, while Willy Gaudinez will show how to make creative craft projects on Sept. 28. Listen to stories by PBBY volunteers every Friday and by Alitaptap storytellers at 10 and 11 a.m. every Saturday. Visitors who donate children's picture storybooks can enter for free. For further inquiries, pls. call 523-1797 to 98.

Movie

"MONSTERS" ON VIDEO. "Monsters Inc." is now out on video! It includes special features such as "Mike's New Car," "Put that Thing Where it Came From," the short film "For the Birds," and a sneak peek of "Finding Nemo," Walt Disney's upcoming movie. Lucky buyers will also have a chance to win "Monsters Inc." items such as shirts, bags, soundtracks, and watches. "Monsters Inc." is now available in the following stores: Astrovision, Video City, SM outlets, Odyssey, O Music, National Bookstore, Tower Records, Rustan's, The Landmark, and other Viva Video outlets nationwide.



Changes

By Marilyn T. De Mesa
St. Joseph Catholic School, Quezon City

I READ somewhere that there is nothing permanent in this world except change.

I think that's good because change is what makes life exciting.

Some changes are happy. Some bring us closer to our life goals. Then, some changes feel troublesome. They make life seem more complicated.

I think that we have to be open to changes whether they be happy or scary.

Change not only affects our outer self, but also our inner self.

Remember when we were younger and were so much dependent on our parents? When we were babies we couldn't even eat without their help.

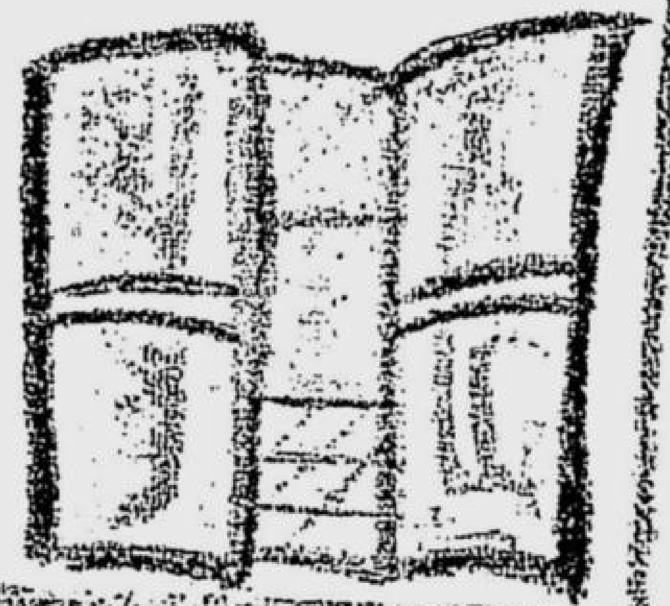
Now we are more independent. There are decisions we can make ourselves.

Change can really be immense. But everything may change except God's love for us. This remains unchanged by time.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snall mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Yey for San Beda!

DEAR Editor,

I am a sports fan and an avid reader of your magazine. I suggest that you feature the San Beda College track and field team, juniors division. I say this because I am a witness to this team's wonderful progress.

Last year, they were the over-all champions, bagging 7 out of 10 medals in major track events. Featuring them in your magazine will give readers information about the wonderful sport of track and field. God bless and more power!—**GERALD LLOYD A. CASTILLO**, tyner_dog@edsamail.com.ph

JUNIOR INQUIRER

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Junior Inquirer (JI) welcomes your views, suggestions, essays, short stories and poems. All contributions must be typewritten double-spaced on short bond paper. Contributions without a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned.
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the Junior Inquirer Editor,
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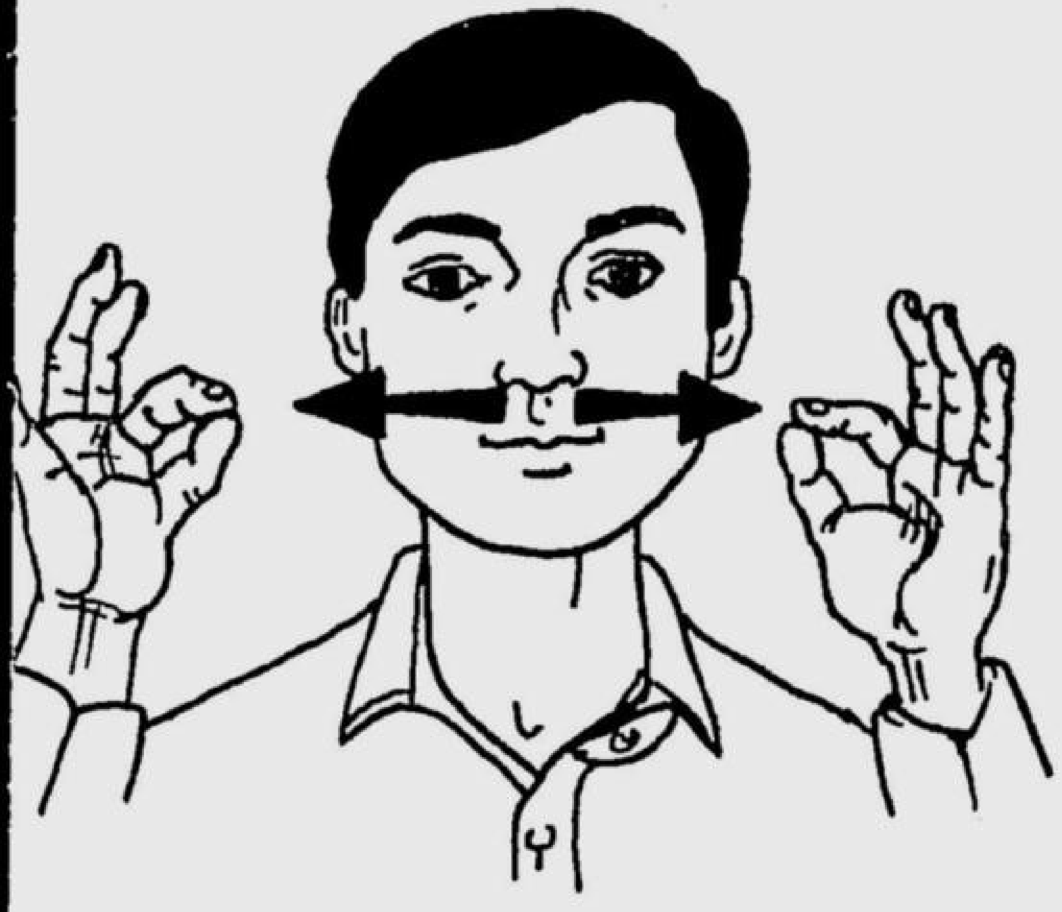
1263 Makati City,
Philippines

Poetry by Migs Villanueva

Illustrations by Jason Moss



Matisse

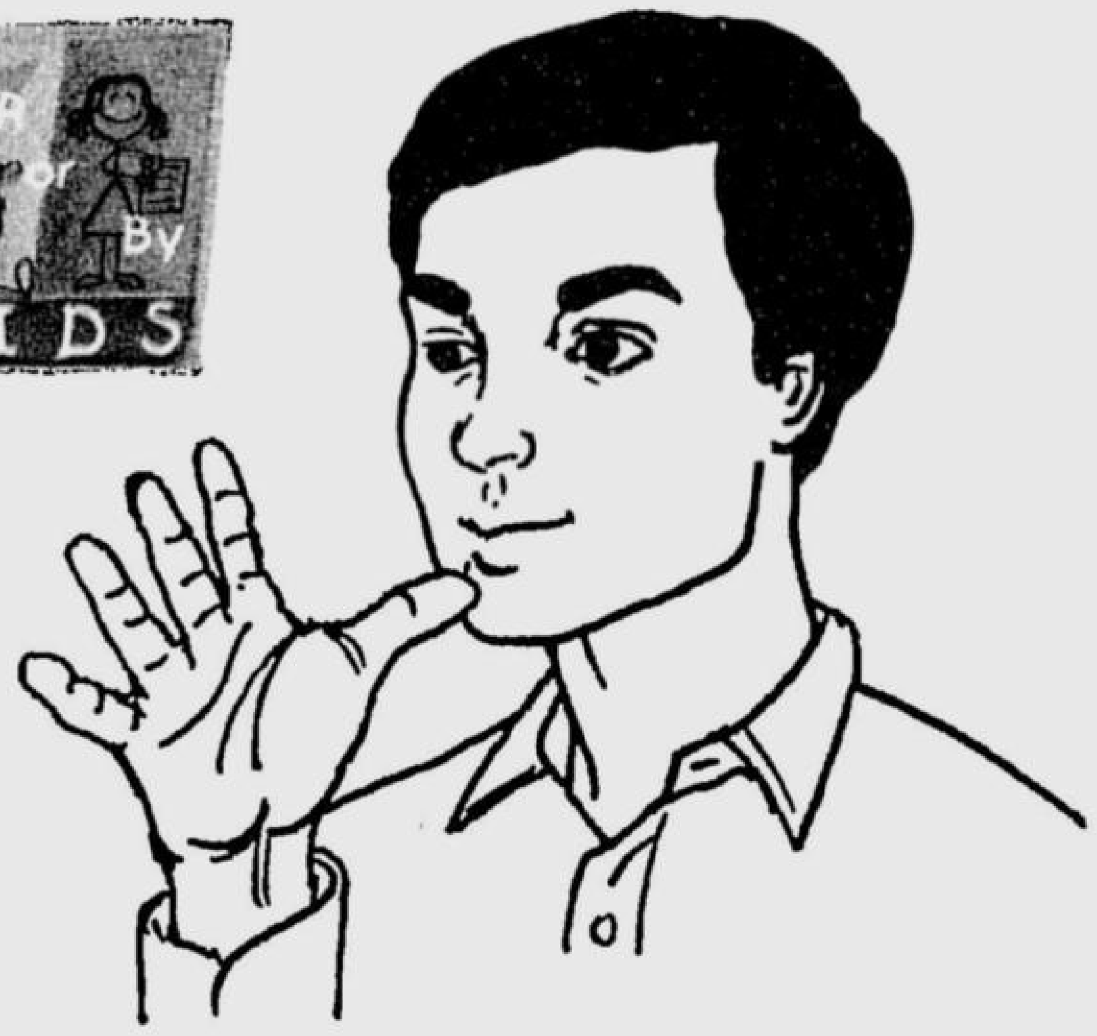
When on the day Chinito turned
A solid 9 years old,
is eyes popped out and his cheeks burned
As soon as he was told
By mom and dad that he had earned
A kitten, three months old!

You think he liked it? Oh, you bet!
An orange tabby that's all his
For all this while, his heart's been set
On a cat he'd name Matisse.
The very best of presents yet!
Such happiness, and bliss!

And so he gave his only cat
Such loving tender care
To tease or hurt or harm his cat,
You wouldn't even dare—
His love was fierce, and that is that,
A bond they both soon shared.
He fed him and he combed his hair
No effort did he spare.

And then one day, in one small tray
Chinito brought a treat
He'd been away at school all day
So he made him some fish meat.
To his surprise, the cat litter lay
All clean and nice and neat.
And then he knew Matisse did stray
Far out into the street.

He looked and looked and looked again
Til he got so tired and weak.
He hoped and prayed for his return,
He waited for a week.
Chinito really couldn't sleep
At nights he tossed and turned
As evenings fell, his cheeks were streaked
With tears for his dear friend.



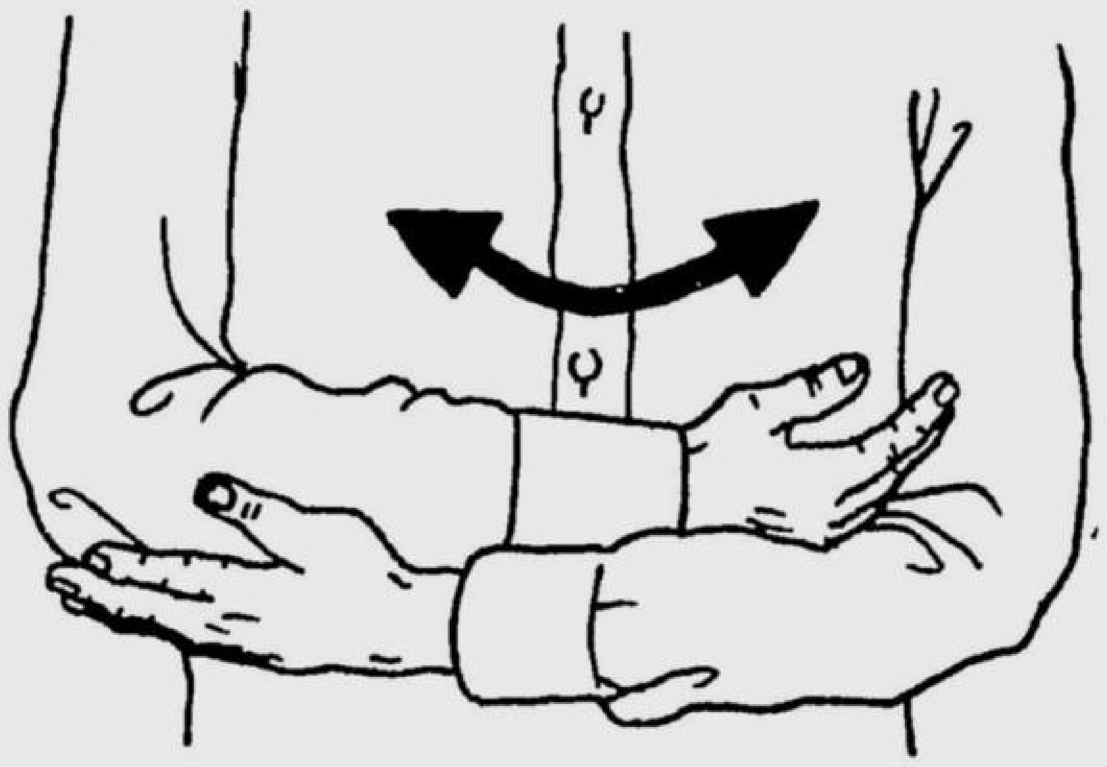
I Love You, Mommy, but...

I love you, Mommy, but
When you wake me up so early
My fairy dreams, you cut.
I won't be grumpy in the morning
If I get ten minutes or something.

I love you mommy but
Beans and greens and broccoli
Makes my pretty mouth go shut.
It's not that I'm complaining,
Put some whipping cream or something.

I love you, Mommy but
When you make me play the piano,
You put me in a spot.
I'm no pianist in the making.
Make me dance or sing or something.

I love you, Mommy but
I know I whine too much!
And yet I feel
You still like me a lot.
It's not that I am bragging
But you're the best
And ain't that something?



Hush now, Lucinda

My sister Lucinda, this is her fame:
Crying so loudly seems to be her game.
She can put a crowing old rooster to shame.
Lucinda So Noisy should be her real name!

Waaah! She would scream.
And I'd wake up from a dream.
She would do this all night,
But with her I can't fight.
Is she hungry or colicky?
Finding out is so tricky.

She really can't tell me
For she's still just a baby.
Hush now, Lucinda
Mom's changed your nappy.
When you scream in a fit
It sounds really nasty.
Give me some quiet for I'm really sleepy,
So hush now, Lucinda, and be like a lady.

***Migs** is a mom who likes to paint and write stories.*

***Jason** is a freelance illustrator and full-time painter. Watch out for these three up-and-coming children's books that he illustrated: "Naku! Ang pula ng mata ko!," "The Zimbragatzees of the Planet Zing," and "Og Uhog."*

A Dalmatian Daze

Little Desi wants more than 101

SEVEN-year-old Ma. Desiree B. Maniquis, or Desi, has a soft spot for just about everybody, including animals... dalmatians in particular.

Desi sadly wrinkles her nose and says that, unfortunately, she's allergic to furry animals. But this Miriam College first grader is not allergic to stuffed toys!

Oddball is her character from the Disney movie "101 Dalmatians" and she's collected more than a handful of those stuffed and cuddly doggies.

Is she aiming for 101? "One hundred thousand dalmatian dolls!" she gleefully replies. Uh-oh! Wait till mom and dad hear that!

Music and Desi

Aside from Disney movies, Desi also enjoys musicals such as "Sound of Music," "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," "The Wiz," "Joseph the Dreamer" and "The Little Mermaid."

She's been on stage in school productions at Miriam College, including a villainess role as a *diwata ng kadiliman.*

But Desi in real life is the opposite of villains like Cruella DeVil! She has a soft spot for everybody... except maybe Cruella. ***Eline Santos***

Kids'r'rrific

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SHE DIGS DALMATIANS: Desi likes kangkong, sitaw and tomatoes. She also collects Disney buzz.

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific nomination form

I nominate: ______________________
____
____
Age: ______________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
____
____
____
____
She/he lives at ______________________
____
____
and studies at ______________________
____
Her/his contact number is:
____
Sender's Name: ______________________
____
Sender's Age & School: ______________________
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Sender's Address: ______________________
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Sender's Contact No.: ______________________
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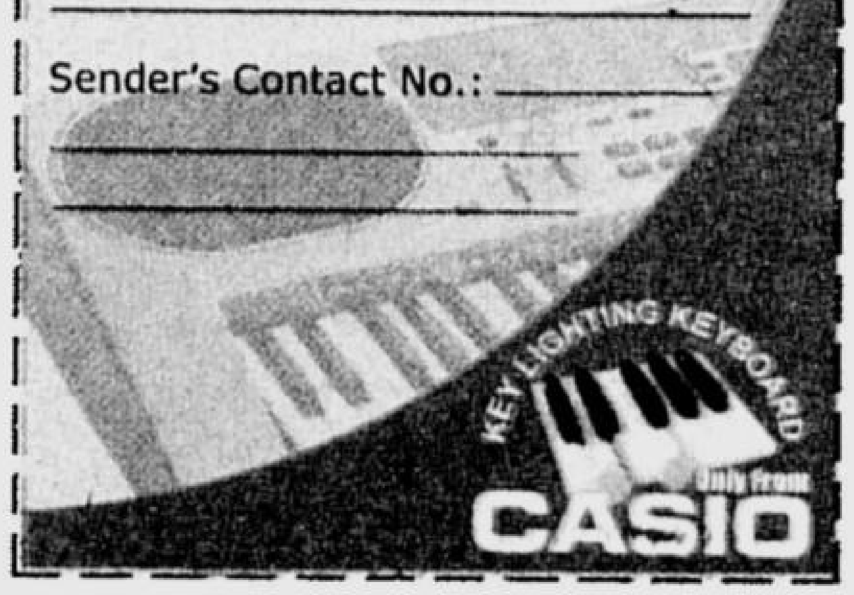


For Love of Felines

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WHEN 25-year-old Armi delos Reyes was a child, her grandmother saved stray cats from the streets. She remembers how her *lola* loved and cared for them until the scrawny felines eventually transformed into adorable pets.

LUCY and Frankie

"I enjoyed looking at the cats milling idly around my *lola*'s house and touching their soft fur," Armi fondly recalls. "From then on, I knew I was hooked on cats for life."

Armi herself started rescuing stray cats and kittens when she was 10. With the help of her mom and younger sister, she provided a loving home to quite a number of homeless kitties over the years. Now, she balances taking care of the kitties with her work as an associate public relations manager at Mega Magazines and Publications, Inc.

"I now have 14 cats at home," Armi says proudly. "It takes a lot of dedication and care to look after all of them, but the feeling of coming home to my cats after a hard day's work is more than complete."

Kitty Rescuer

Armi says that she found her cats under unpleasant circumstances. She rescued most of them from bushes and sidewalks.

"We even retrieved two kittens trapped between two rocks under an outpost," she says. "But the worst situation I ever encountered was when my sister rescued a helpless kitten from a man who was trying to hose it to the middle of the street," Armi says, shaking her head. "We should always remember that animals don't deserve these acts of cruelty."

She adds that we should be vigilant in our roles as caretakers of animals like cats and dogs that depend on our intelligence and capacity.

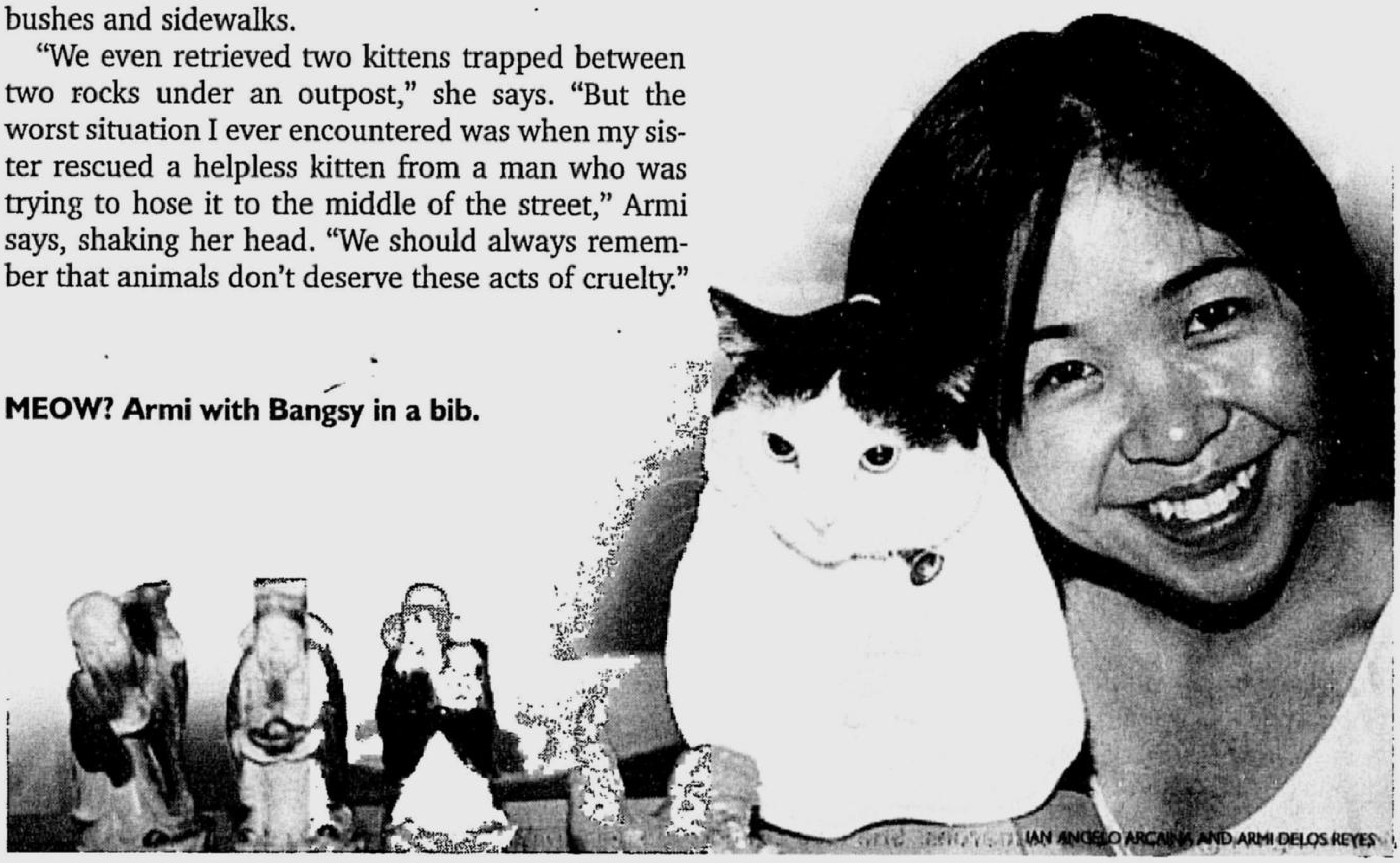
"This is not just our world, we share it with a lot of other creatures," stresses Armi. "And they need us now, more than ever, with the widespread cruelty and indifference around us."

Not a Hobby

Armi says that adopting a homeless kitten or puppy entails a lot of responsibility. "The simple act of taking in a cat or dog reflects your good intentions, but it doesn't end there," she relates. "Now part of your family, your cat or dog deserves all your love and attention and that includes good food, clean water and an attentive bath," smiles Armi.

To kids who share the same interest in animals, Armi shares these words of encouragement. "It is a good thing to start loving animals as children. Always be sensitive and aware of the special needs of the creatures around you. Think of how wonderful the world would be if we are more genuinely concerned with their well-being."

MEOW? Armi with Bangsy in a bib.



IAN ANGELO ARCAINA AND ARMI DELOS REYES

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _______________.
He/She is _________ years old and
is my _________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a__________
_ _____________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at _____
_____________________.
By the way, I'm ___________
_____________________.
I'm__________years old.
My address is____________
_____________________.
You may call me at__________
_____________________.

CAMPUS
NEWS

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write **ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER** on top of your article. See **YOUR** news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

Two to Malaysia

TWO teachers from Bohol and Davao are flying to Malaysia to represent the Girl Scouts of the Philippines in the 2nd Asia-Pacific International Leadership Training" of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Marilyn V. Liganad and Perla T. Tugonon, troop leaders and district field advisers in their respective provinces, will meet and learn with troop leaders from all over Asia in Seremban, Malaysia from Sept. 11 to 17.

Ms Liganad, 29, is a teacher at Pilar National High School in Bohol. Ms Tugonon, 32, is officer in charge of the Artemio Loyola Elementary School in Turil, Davao City

Woohoo! Way to go Ma'ams! Always be prepared!

The SuperScout Medal

THE Girl Scouts of the Philippines is honoring hundreds of Senior and Cadet Girl Scouts from all over the country who have successfully completed the requirements for the Chief Girl Scout Medal.

This medal is the highest award a Senior and a Cadet Girl Scout may receive for their involvement in community and national affairs.

Medallists are evaluated on their year-long development projects on Cultural Heritage, Livelihood, Health, or Ecology.

The awarding ceremonies at the GSP National Headquarters in Manila are on September 28 for Central Luzon, September 29 for Northern Luzon, October 4 for Southern Luzon and October 26 for Visayas, Eastern Mindanao and Western Mindanao Regions.

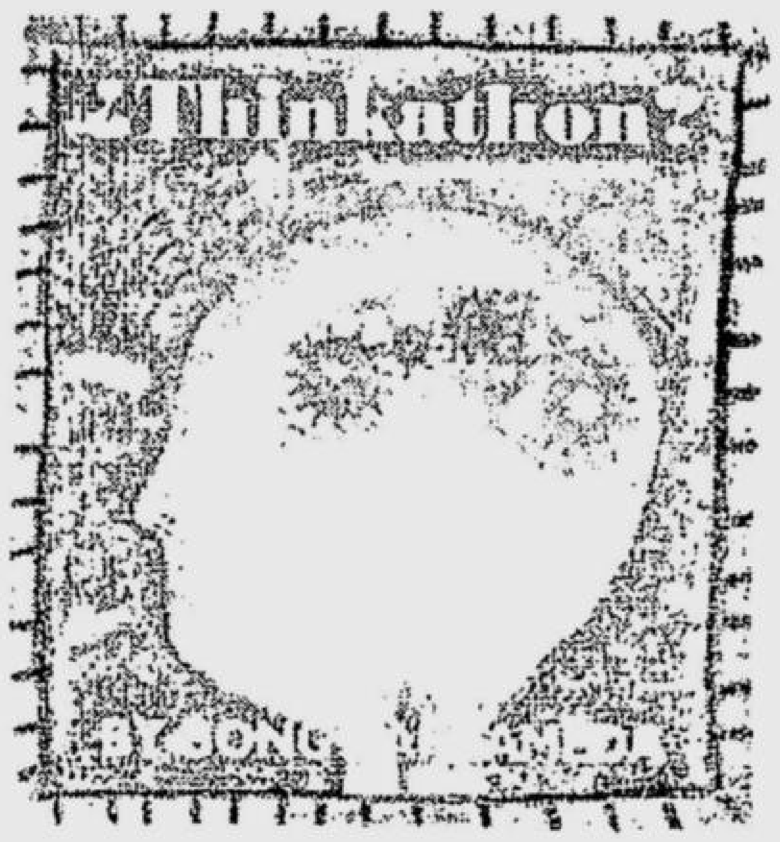
Truth Be Told

(from page 2)

"People are all right until pay day, and then they get drunk and act like grown-up thugs."

Kay Kay from China and Haily Turner from the United Kingdom also have their stories to tell. Each of their stories provides a picture of how far—or how little—has been achieved of the 1992 Earth Summit goals.

As world leaders once again met in Johannesburg, young people made their plea. "Rio was about talking. Johannesburg should be about walking," said a group of young protesters. "Let this not be another Rio de Janeiro. We are committed to sustainable development, all we need is for you to be." *Eline Santos*



COMPUTER ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

THE vocabulary of computer science is loaded with abbreviations and acronyms. We've picked a dozen of them for this week's quiz. Can you pick their correct meanings?

1. CPU
   A. Central Programming Unit
   B. Computer Processing Unit
   C. Central Processing Unit

2. FAQ
   X. Frequently Answered Questions
   Y. Frequently Asked Questions
   Z. Frequently Addressed Questions

3. CD-ROM
   A. Compact Disk-Read-Only Memory
   B. Compact Disk-Receive-Only Memory
   C. Compact Disk-Record-Only Memory

4. BIOS
   X. Basic Input/Output System
   Y. Biological Input/Output System
   Z. Broad Input/Output System

5. ISP
   A. Internet Service Provider
   B. Internet Speed Provider
   C. Internet Subscription Provider

6. PDA
   X. Professional Digital Assistant
   Y. Portable Digital Assistant
   Z. Personal Digital Assistant

7. LAN
   A. Laser Area Network
   B. Local Area Network
   C. Learning Area Network

8. GUI
   X. Graphical User Interface
   Y. Graphical User Information
   Z. Graphical User Input

9. DOS
   A. Disk Output System
   B. Disk Overdrive System
   C. Disk Operating System

10. URL
   X. Unique Resource Locator
   Y. Uniform Resource Locator
   Z. Universal Resource Locator

11. HTTP
   A. HyperText Transfer Program
   B. HyperText Transfer Protocol
   C. HyperText Transfer Process

12. ASCII
   X. American Standard Code for Information Interchange
   Y. Accepted Standard Code for Information Interchange
   Z. Automatic Standard Code for Information Interchange

Answers:

1. C
2. Y
3. A
4. X
5. A
6. Z
7. B
8. X
9. C
10. Y
11. B
12. X

Ratings:

superbrain!
11-12

excellent!
9-10

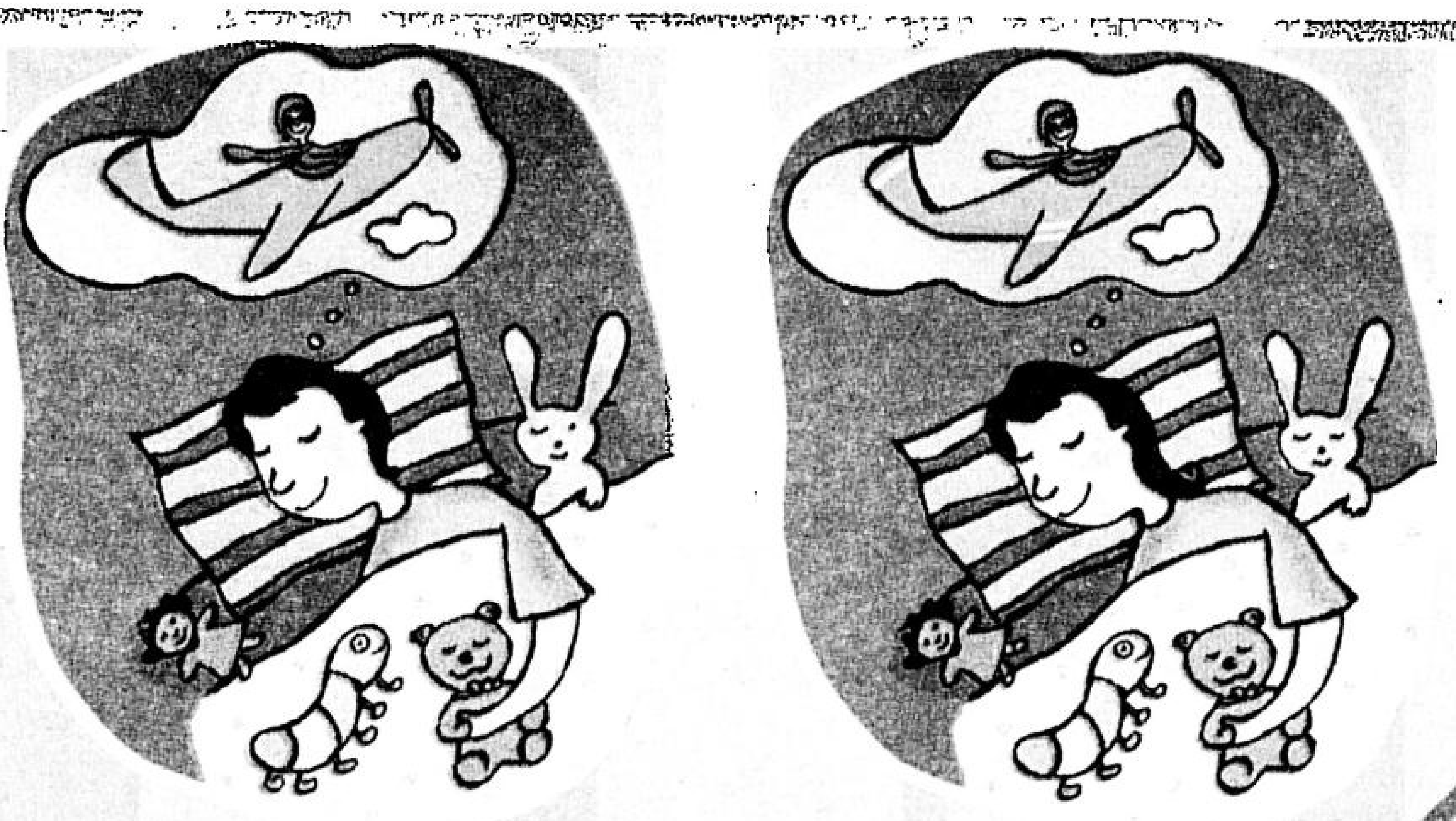
good!
6-8

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

there are 6 differences in the two pictures. Can you spot them all?



Carmela's dream

ANSWERS: cloud, rabbit's eye, doll's shoes, caterpillar's leg, carmela's hair, plane stripes

DO THE DANCE!

Find out what dances [illegible] likes. Unscramble these words.

1. HAC-AHC
2. GERNEEUM
3. ASASL
4. GOIBOE
5. MEANOCLF

ANSWERS: 1.CHA-CHA 2.MERENGUE 3.SALSA 4.BOOGIE 5.FLAMENCO

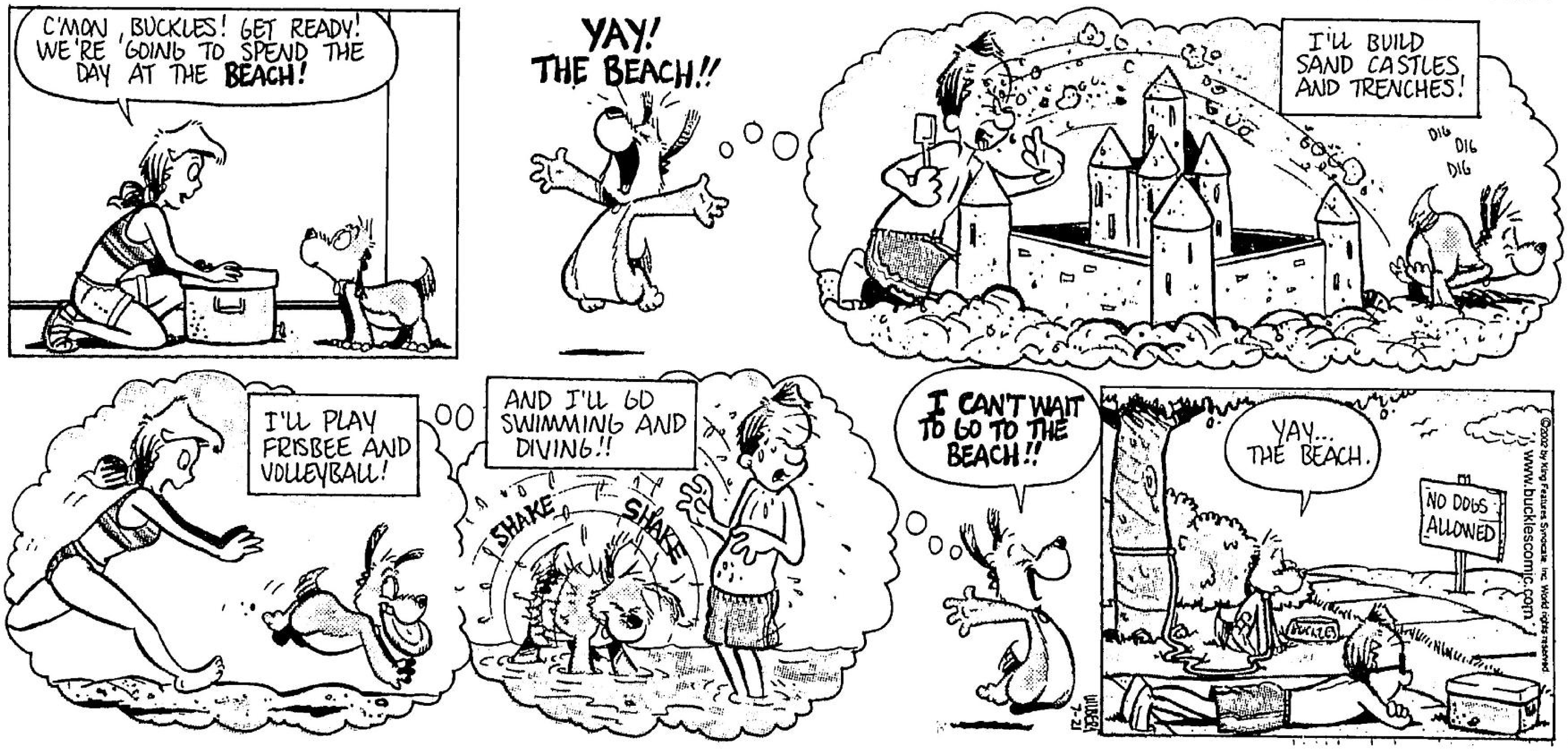
RIBBIT! READ IT! stormy facts

TRUE OR FALSE? BEFORE A STORM:

1. Flowers smell stronger
2. Kid brothers grow taller
3. Frogs croak more
4. Milk goes sour
5. Birds fly lower
6. Worms grow hair

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


C'MON, BUCKLES! GET READY! WE'RE GOING TO SPEND THE DAY AT THE BEACH!
YAY! THE BEACH!!
I'LL BUILD SAND CASTLES AND TRENCHES!
DIG DIG DIG
I'LL PLAY FRISBEE AND VOLLEYBALL!
AND I'LL GO SWIMMING AND DIVING!!
SHAKE SHAKE
I CAN'T WAIT TO GO TO THE BEACH!!
YAY... THE BEACH.
NO DOGS ALLOWED
BUCKLES
GILBERT 7-21
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by Katrina B. Villa

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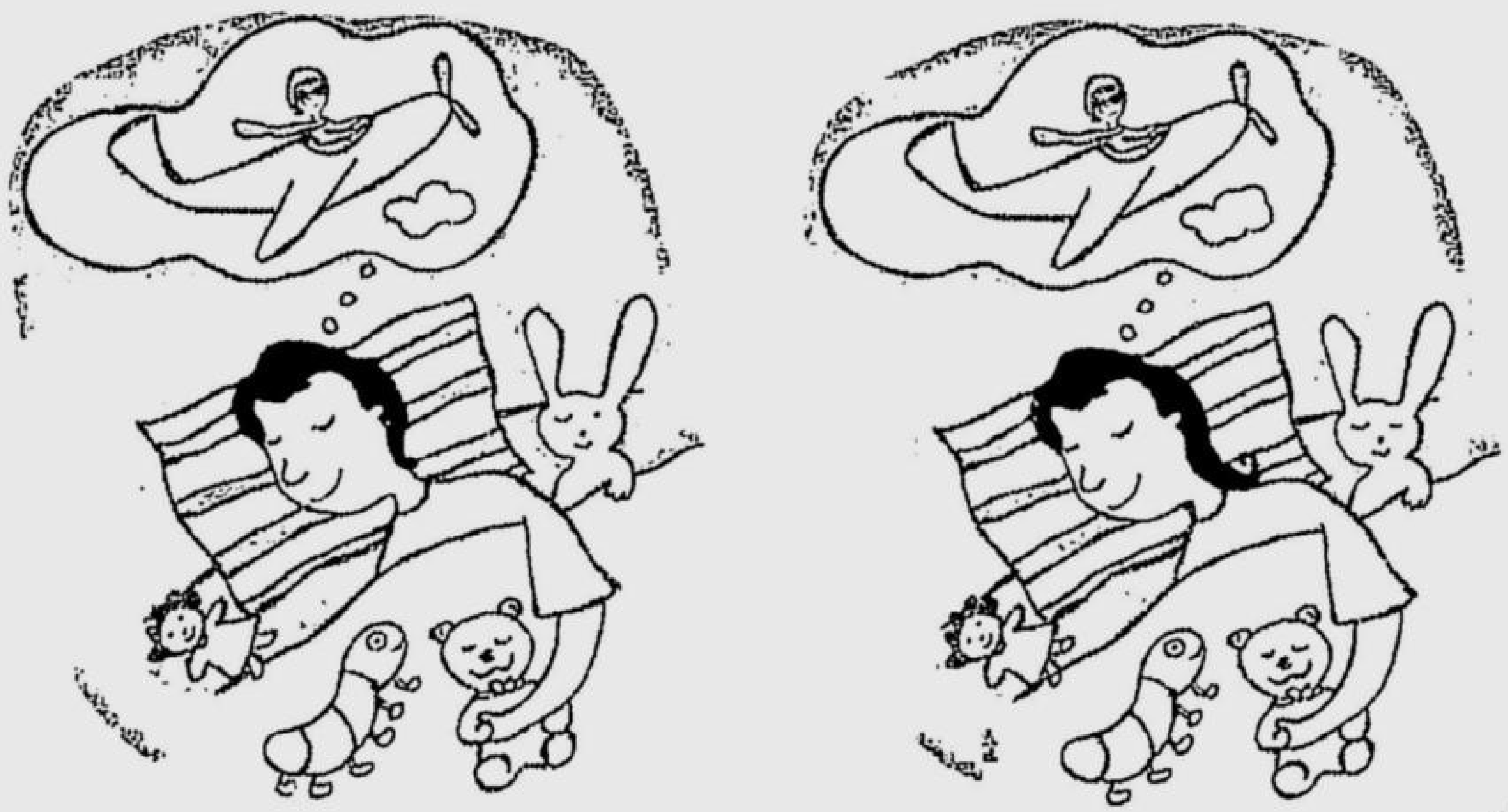

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ANSWERS: 1.CHA-CHA 2.MERENGUE 3.SALSA 4.BOOGIE 5.FLAMENCO

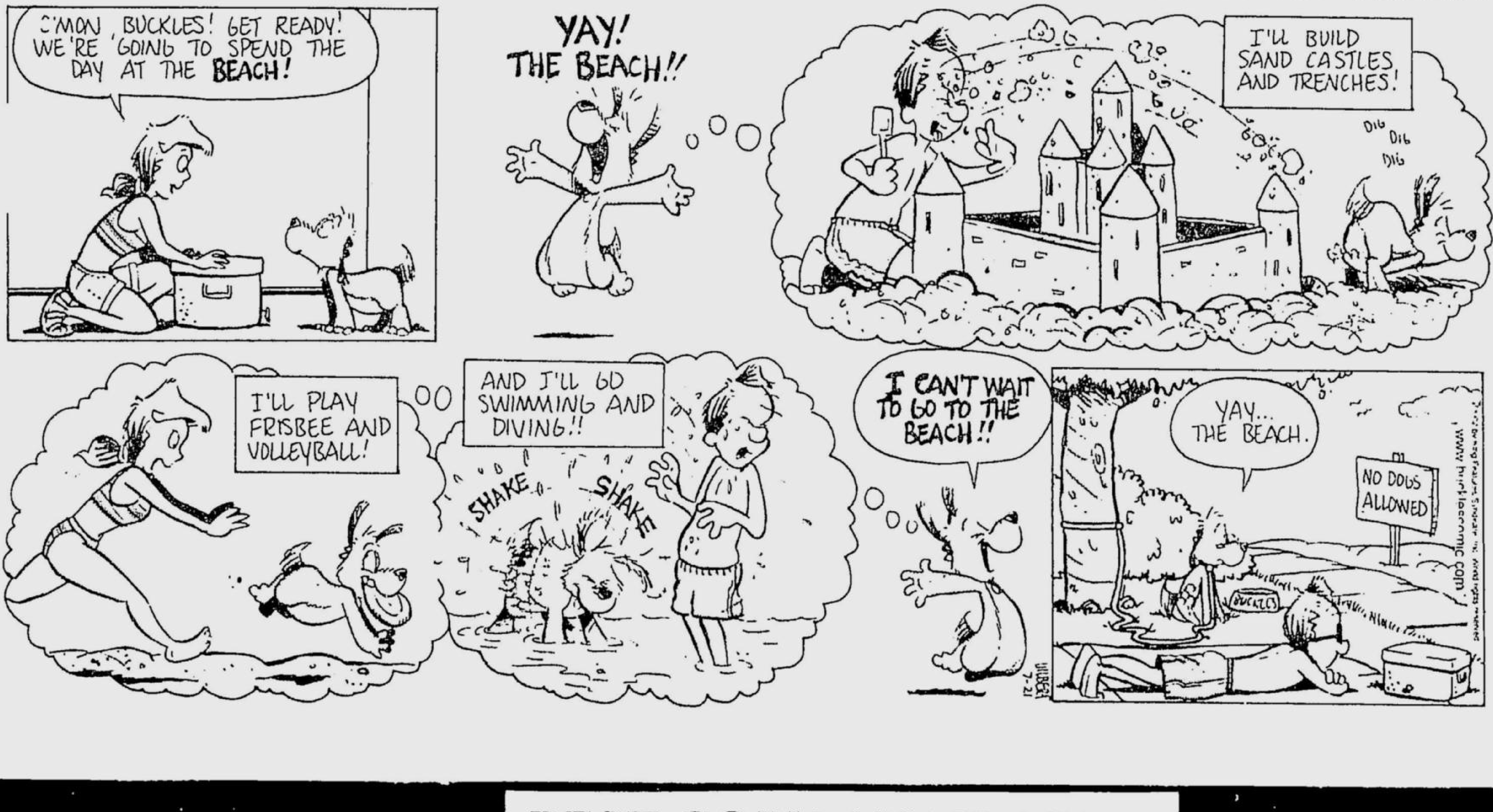
stormy facts

1. Flowers smell stronger
2. Kid brothers grow taller
3. Frogs croak more
4. Milk goes sour
5. Birds fly lower
6. Worms grow hair

ANSWERS: 1,3 and 5 are true.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT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YAY... THE BEACH.
NO DOGS ALLOWED
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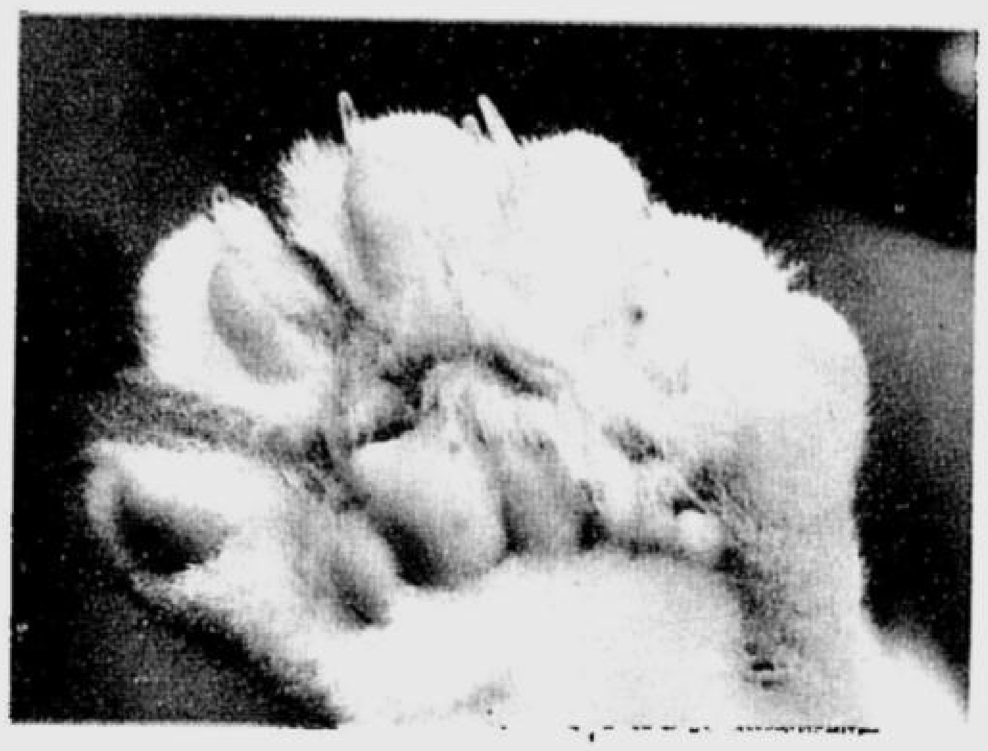
Odd News



Nine Lives, 28 Toes

ONE of the paws of a cat named Mooch is seen in this photograph taken in Oakland, Maine in the US. The yellow feline, owned by Bob and Becky DuVal has 28 toes. The DuVals say their large, yellow feline's number of toes are the most of any cat in the world. They have submitted evidence they hope will earn Mooch a listing in the Guinness Book of Records. *AP*

Police investigate road racing rodent

LONDON—Detectives are investigating the mystery of a hamster found driving a toy racing car along a promenade at a northern seaside resort, newspapers say. The hamster, nicknamed Speedy, was handed in by a member of the public who found him cruising through Cleveleys, near Blackpool in the modified toy, which he powered by a treadmill. *Reuters*

Meteor near-miss in Australia

SYDNEY—A large meteor possibly the size of a boulder has come close to striking the earth in Australia, according to local media. Residents of Goolwa and Victor Harbour, south of the state capital Adelaide, inundated police with reports of a flash of blue light, smoke trails and two sonic booms on Sept.5. *Reuters*

Stiff dogs get fishy remedy

LEICESTER—Veterinarians have harnessed the power of New Zealand green lip mussels to produce a dog food that helps to relieve arthritis pain suffered by ageing canines around the globe.

As many as one fifth of the 4.8 million dogs in Britain alone experience the painful inflammation of the joints, which is particularly prevalent in large breeds and older dogs.

But veterinarians at Waltham, the pet care side of U.S. candy maker Mars, said they had produced a food using New Zealand green lip mussels to ease the suffering of man's best friend. *Reuters*

Celebrate Pooh Friendship Day
Huggable Stuffed Toys
Dinnerware Collection
Stationery Collection
Strappy & Sleeveless Shirts
Backpacks & Lunch kits
Kiddie Slippers
Photo Frames
Colorful Mugs
© Disney Based on "Winnie the Pooh" works. © A.A. Milne and E.H. Shepard
At the Character Shop SM DEPARTMENT STORE We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO